

Hafa Adai!

Vaccination at Multi-Purpose moves to MCATS site. **PAGE 3**

Western pressure mounts on Solomons to quash pact with China. **PAGE 5**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 75

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY APRIL 15, 2022

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Torres asks Senate to dismiss impeachment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has called for a hearing on Tuesday, April 19, to discuss Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment against him.



Torres

In a memorandum issued by the office of the Senate president yesterday, Hofschneider called for the attendance of the Senate body on Tuesday at 10am to talk about Torres' motion.

"Pursuant to Senate Impeachment Rule 19(a), I have scheduled a hearing on the motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment in the Sen-

» Senate to hear motion on Tuesday

ate chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Manas Memorial Building. The moving party is required to attend the hearing on the motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment," the Senate president stated.

Oral testimonies will be entertained during the hearing but must be kept to a minimum of five minutes. Written testimonies will also be accepted and must be delivered to the office of the Senate on Capital Hill before the Tues-

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

Presumptive Medicaid extended anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid has been extended again to July 2022 for the CNMI, says Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Es-

ther Muña.

Presumptive eligibility for the Medicaid program was supposed to expire this month after its first extension back in 2021. Muña announced the new

See **MEDICAID** on **Page 4**



'WHERE ARE WE NOW'

Christopher A. Concepcion, Garapan Revitalization Task Force chair and Office of Planning and Development deputy director, presents the 60% progress of the task force to the public at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center yesterday afternoon.

LEIGH GASES

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

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Source: Office of the Governor

Face masks still mandatory at PSS

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Face masks are still required for schools of the CNMI Public School System despite the CNMI being now at community level low, based on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's metric.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada said in a memorandum last week that

PSS will continue to enforce the 3 Ws—wear a mask, watch your distance, wash your hands—in all schools, offices, and facilities.

Gov. Ralph Torres had already eased the mask requirement in the CNMI when the CNMI was already considered at community level medium, making it now a personal choice whether you want to wear a

See **FACE** on **Page 4**

CDC extends travel mask requirement to May 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it is extending the nationwide mask requirement for airplanes and public transit for 15 days as it monitors an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was extending the order, which was set to expire on

April 18, until May 3 to allow more time to study the BA.2 omicron subvariant that is now responsible for the vast majority of cases in the U.S.

"In order to assess the potential impact the rise of cases has on severe disease, including hospitalizations and deaths, and health care system capacity, the CDC order will remain in place at this time,"

the agency said in a statement.

When the Transportation Security Administration, which enforces the rule for planes, buses, trains and transit hubs, extended the requirement last month, it said the CDC had been hoping to roll out a more flexible masking strategy that would have replaced the nationwide requirement.

See **CDC** on **Page 2**

INSIDE



NATION

Police are still searching for a motive in the Brooklyn subway shooting that wounded 10 people.

Page 15



ASIA

The death toll from landslides in the Philippines has risen to at least 43, with 28 still missing.

Page 16



LIFE & STYLE

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. pleads guilty to forcibly kissing a worker at a New York nightclub in 2018.

Page 19



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Local

CDC

From Page 1

The mask mandate is the most visible vestige of government restrictions to control the pandemic, and possibly the most controversial. A surge of abusive and sometimes violent incidents on airplanes has been attributed mostly to disputes over mask-wearing.

Separately, the Biden administration also extended for 90 days a public health emergency that has been in effect since early 2020. That allows temporary continuation of a range of public health measures that do have broad support, from more generous Medicaid coverage to flexibility around telehealth.

The mask requirement for travelers was the target of months of lobbying from the airlines, who sought to kill it. The carriers argued that effective air filters on modern planes make transmission of the virus during a flight highly unlikely. Republicans in Congress also fought to kill the mandate.

Critics have seized on the fact that states have rolled back rules requiring masks in restaurants, stores and other indoor settings, and yet COVID-19 cases have fallen sharply since the omicron variant peaked in mid-January.

"It is very difficult to understand why masks are still required on airplanes, but not

needed in crowded bars and restaurants; in packed sports arenas; in schools full of children; or at large indoor political gatherings," Nicholas Calio, the CEO of industry trade group Airlines for America, said Wednesday in a letter to the heads of the CDC and the Health and Human Services Department. "Simply put, an extension of the mask mandate does not make sense."

There has been a slight increase in cases in recent weeks, with daily confirmed cases nationwide rising from about 25,000 per day to more than 30,000. More than 85% of those cases are the highly contagious BA.2 strain. Those figures could be an undercount since many people now test positive on at-home tests that are not reported to public health agencies.

Severe illnesses and deaths tend to lag infections by several weeks. The CDC is awaiting indications of whether the increase in cases correlates to a rise in adverse outcomes before announcing a less restrictive mask policy for travel.

A poll in mid-March by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that Americans are evenly divided over keeping the mask rule for transportation.

The poll found that 51% wanted the mandate to expire and 48% said it should remain in place — in effect, a tie, given the poll's margin of

See CDC on Page 4

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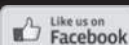
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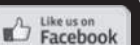
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Vaccination at Multi-Purpose moves to MCATS site at CHCC

The COVID-19 mass vaccination operations at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center will relocate to tent M6 of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Medical Care and Treatment Site on April 18 – 29, 2022, and will operate Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Additionally, in partnership with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services, CHCC will host vaccination outreach sites at the Kagman Community Center and the Tanapag Youth Center during the following Saturday dates:

Date	Location	Time
4/23/2022	Kagman Community Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
4/30/2022	Kagman Community Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5/7/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5/14/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5/21/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5/28/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
6/4/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
6/11/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
6/18/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
6/25/2022	Tanapag Youth Center	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified yesterday of two COVID-19-related fatalities.

The 353rd COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on April 1, 2022. The patient was an 82-year-old male, fully vaccinated without a booster shot, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on April 1.

The 354th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the GRMC on April 10, 2022. The patient was a 60-year-old female, fully vaccinated with one booster shot, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on April 1.

“With each lost loved one, we are again faced with the

Public warned of rough seas

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am Saturday. There is also a high risk of rip currents through late Friday night. A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Friday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 10 to 12 feet are peaking and should diminish to between 9 and 11 feet last night and between 8 and 10 feet today along west facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Also, seas of 7 to 10 feet will be present in Marianas coastal waters until 6 pm Friday.

These conditions will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and local-

See PUBLIC on Page 4

harsh reality that we are not out of the woods yet,” said acting governor Josh Tenorio. “To their family and friends, Gov. Lou [Leon Guerrero], first gentleman Jeff [Cook], and I extend our sincerest sympathies and offer our prayers of comfort.”

Guam’s Department of Public Health and Social Services also reported 27 new cases of COVID-19 from 513 specimens analyzed on April 12, 2022. Five of the cases reported are through the Department of Defense. To date, there have been a total of 47,682 officially reported cases, 354

deaths, 203 cases in active isolation, and 47,125 not in active isolation.

In the CNMI, COVID-19 vaccines are also available at select private clinics, such as Medical Associates of the Pacific, Kagman Isla Community Health, Marianas Medical Center, as well as the following CHCC outpatient clinics: Family Care Clinic, Children’s Clinic, Women’s Clinic, Immunization Clinic, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center. Contact each clinic for more information.

All locations will offer primary, additional, and booster doses of all U.S. FDA authorized/approved COVID-19 vaccine products.

A second COVID-19 vaccine booster shot is available to individuals aged 50 years and older and certain immunocompromised individuals. For more information on receiving a booster shot or to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment, visit www.vaccinatecnmi.com or call (670) 682-7468. (PR)

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CONFERENCE ON ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY

Saipan's Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) encourages the audience to build solidarity with each other throughout the Mariana Islands as a featured CIS Seed Talks speaker of the 2022 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on April 8 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. Babauta is an environmental justice movement fellow with The New School (N.Y.) and is a representative in the 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. uog



Austin Shelton, director of the Center for Island Sustainability, speaks on a panel about harnessing opportunities for Guam from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, at the 2022 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on April 8 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. (From left) Moderator Melanie Mendiola, CEO and administration, Guam Economic Development Authority; Carlotta Leon Guerrero, chief adviser on military and regional affairs to the governor of Guam; John Miller, president, Mana Pacific Inc. (Hawaii); and Shelton. uog

Conference on Island Sustainability keynote speaker Suzanne Vares-Lum, the new president of the East-West Center in Hawaii as of January, shares what her father told her after surveying various Micronesian islands with the Army in 1962: "We have a lot to learn from those who live there ... there's no such thing as an orphan, there's no such thing as someone who's homeless... there was no such thing in 1962. There wasn't an idea that you wouldn't share everything you had with someone else." She spoke at the University of Guam conference on April 7 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. uog



Heidi Kujawa, CEO of ByFusion Global Inc. based in California, explains her company's development of construction-grade building blocks made from recycled and unrecyclable plastics. She was a featured speaker of the 2022 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on April 7 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. uog



University of Guam president Thomas W. Krise and Guam Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero answer questions during a press conference to open the 2022 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on April 5 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. This marks the third year the governor and UOG president have served as co-chairs of the conference. uog

CDC

From Page 2

error. Democrats overwhelmingly supported the rule, and Republicans were even more united in opposing it. Vaccinated people and those with

chronic health conditions favored keeping the rule, but by smaller margins.

Airlines imposed their own mask mandates in 2020, when the Trump administration declined to take action. Unions representing flight attendants,

which once backed mask rules, now decline to take a position because their members are divided over the issue.

It is unclear whether eliminating the rule would make people more or less likely to travel on planes or subways.

Ed Bastian, the CEO of Delta Air Lines, said that some people might start flying if they don't have to wear a mask, and others might stop flying if other passengers are unmasked. He called both groups "fringe," and he pre-

dicted that many people will continue to wear masks even if the rule is dropped.

As for the broader public health emergency just extended by the Department of Health and Human Services, the administration has prom-

ised to give states 60 days' notice before ending it.

Winding down the emergency declaration could force an estimated 15 million Medicaid recipients to find new sources of coverage, require congressional action to preserve broad telehealth access for Medicare enrollees, and scramble special COVID-19 rules and payment policies for hospitals, doctors and insurers. There are also questions about how emergency use approvals for COVID-19 treatments will be handled.

FACE

From Page 1

mask or not in a public place.

However, the CDC still recommends the wearing of masks indoors for all individuals ages 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

As a result, according to Ada, "to ensure that we keep our safety and care measures in place, PSS will continue to

enforce the 3 Ws. ...To protect our vulnerable populations at schools, as well as the families of our students and staff, face masks will remain mandatory."

When asked how he feels that masks are still required in school, a Marianas High School sophomore student said, "I feel much safer with the mask. I'm okay with it. I still wear masks when I go out in public too, like the stores or anywhere."

In the same memorandum,

Ada commends all staff, students, leaders, and families for "keeping education, health, and safety top priority."

"PSS will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our community and will keep you updated as circumstances change," he added.

Saipan Tribune archives state that the CNMI is now at community level low due to the high vaccination rate against COVID-19 in the CNMI and availability of

treatments such as monoclonal antibodies.

Ada assures parents and families that "we will continue to revisit our protocols in place and make decisions in the best interest of our students.

To see the protocols in place, visit <https://www.cnmipss.org/covid-19-updates>

Individuals who are experiencing mild symptoms may get tested at designated testing sites, rather than in the CHCC emergency department as it is

not a testing site.

Individuals can get tested at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center, which is open Monday to Friday from 12:30pm to 3pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:30am to 11am.

Local pharmacies and stores now carry at-home COVID-19 test kits for those who are interested. Free at-home COVID-19 test kits are also available at www.covidtests.gov.

PUBLIC

From Page 3

ized beach erosion. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

These west swells are being caused by fresh to strong monsoon flow and Typhoon Malakas.

The public is advised to stay out of the water along west facing reefs. Elsewhere, swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help.

Combined seas will decrease across the region through Friday. Seas could fall below hazardous levels of 10 feet as early as Friday for Guam and Rota waters.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. (PR/Saipan Tribune)

TORRES

From Page 1

day hearing.

In addition, the House impeachment prosecutor, Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan), will not be allowed to participate in the hearing on Tuesday.

Back on March 29, Hofschneider selected Magofna

to be the House Impeachment Prosecutor pursuant to Senate Impeachment Rule 7(a)(2) and gave notice to enter an appearance in this matter.

Pursuant to Magofna's failure to timely file an appearance and the House clerk's failure to submit the House impeachment record in compliance with Senate Impeach-

ment Rule 9(e), the House Impeachment Prosecutor shall not be allowed to participate at the hearing on the motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment.

Meanwhile, on Monday, April 18, at 4pm, the Senate will hold a special session to address House Bill 22-95 to amend the Appropriations Act

of Fiscal Year 2022 to fund the retiree bonuses.

Last month, Torres filed a motion asking the Senate to dismiss the Articles of Impeachment filed against him by the House of Representatives because it allegedly violates the mandate of the CNMI Constitution.

In a 27-page motion, Tor-

res, through his lawyer, Anthony H. Aguon, said if the Senate decides that it would like to receive testimony and additional evidence before ruling on the dismissal motion, then he is prepared to do so at a hearing on the merits of the Articles of Impeachment charges, or such other time as the Senate prefers, prior to it addressing the merits.

MEDICAID

From Page 1

extension in a brief statement yesterday.

To see if you qualify or to learn more, the CHCC asks you to call the CHCC Care and Resource Assistance Office at (670) 234-8950 Ext. 3502.

In a previous interview with Muña, she explained that because the presumptive Medicaid program was estab-

lished pursuant to the National Public Health Emergency put in place due to COVID-19, a two-months' notice should have been given before the public health emergency is lifted, ending the program. Because ample time was not given, the program has been extended.

"[The program] is based on the National Public Health Emergency. They're supposed to give ample time for us to notify the community that

the Public Health Emergency is ending. Once the Public Health Emergency Ends, then Medicaid presumptive eligibility ends," she said.

However, even if the program ends, there will still be a redetermination period to determine whether those who availed of presumptive Medicaid qualify for regular Medicaid.

For those individuals that are presumed eligible, the Medicaid Office will deter-

mine whether they're eligible for regular Medicaid.

Presumptive eligibility, or PE, is an expedited process of enrolling eligible residents in the CNMI Medicaid program. It allows patients to have their care covered while waiting for their application to be fully processed.

It offers immediate access to health care while applying for regular Medicaid or other health coverage. You can start using PE for Medicaid cover-

Western pressure mounts on Solomons to quash pact with China

CANBERRA, Australia: (AP)—Australia and the United States are stepping up diplomatic outreach to the Solomon Islands after China signed a security deal with the South Pacific island nation that could lead to Beijing establishing a military presence there.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Wednesday that his minister for International Development and the Pacific, Zed Seselja, had flown to the Solomon Islands the day before for talks with Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare on the April 1 security pact the country agreed to with China.

Seselja said he had asked Sogavare to abandon the Chinese agreement.

"We have asked Solomon Islands respectfully to consider not signing the agreement and to consult the Pacific family in the spirit of regional openness and transparency, consistent with our region's security frameworks," Seselja said in a statement.

The trip came the same day that U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman spoke with Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele about Washington's plan to reopen an embassy in the capital, Honiara.

The announcement of reopening the embassy, which has been closed since 1993, came in February before the security pact came to light, but amid already growing concerns about Chinese influence in the strategically important country.

A Chinese military presence in the Solomon Islands would put it not only on the doorstep of Australia and New Zealand

but also in close proximity to Guam, with its massive U.S. military bases.

At the time he announced the embassy's reopening, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. was seeking to increase its influence in the Solomon Islands before China becomes "strongly embedded."

State Department spokesman Ned Price said the call between Sherman and Manele touched on "our joint efforts to broaden and deepen engagement between our countries," in addition to the embassy plans, but gave no further details.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian defended Beijing's cooperation with the Solomons as being based on "the principle of mutual respect and mutual benefit" and in line with international law and international practice.

"It is conducive to the social stability and lasting peace and safety of Solomon Islands and will help promote peace, stability and development of Solomon Islands and the rest of South Pacific region," Zhao told reporters Wednesday at a daily briefing.

"The security cooperation between China and the Solomon Islands does not target any third party or work in opposition to the Solomon Islands' cooperation with other countries, but will complement the exiting regional cooperation mechanism in a positive way," he said.

He added that other countries "should view this in an objective and reasonable manner, respect the sovereignty

and independent decision of China and the Solomon Islands, avoid provoking confrontation and creating division in the region, and do something conducive to regional stability and development."

According to a draft of the agreement, which was leaked online, Chinese warships could stop in the Solomons for "logistical replenishment" and China could send police, military personnel and other armed forces to the Solomons "to assist in maintaining social order."

The draft agreement specifies China must approve what

information is disclosed about joint security arrangements, including at media briefings.

The Solomon Islands government have said a draft was initialed two weeks ago and that it would be "cleaned up" and finalized soon.

The Solomon Islands government has said it won't allow China to build a military base there and China has denied seeking a military foothold in the South Pacific, but the pact set off alarm bells among many Western nations.

Since it was signed, two top Australian intelligence officials—Australian Secret

Intelligence Service boss Paul Symon and Office of National Intelligence Director-General Andrew Shearer—have met Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

Australia already has a bilateral security pact with the Solomon Islands and Australian police peacekeepers have been in the capital, Honiara, since riots in November.

Morrison said Australia was respectfully and directly communicating with the Solomon Islands on the Chinese security deal.

"The suggestion that somehow, some seem to be mak-

ing, that the Solomon Islands is somehow under the control of Australia I think is offensive to the Solomon Islands," Morrison said.

"They are a sovereign nation. I respect their independence and they will make their own decisions about their own sovereignty," he said.

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This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

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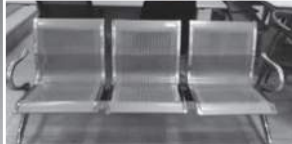
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Man presses IPI for \$57.4K in attorney's fees and costs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A former employee of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI)

LLC who sued IPI in 2019 in the U.S. District Court for the NMI filed a petition Wednesday for the fourth time for IPI to pay his attorney's fees and to

shoulder the cost for the time spent for filing the motion.

Joshua Gray wants IPI to pay his attorney's fees—a cost of \$56,955—as well as \$400.75

for filing the motion.

Gray “seeks fees for 180.3 hours of attorney work, 123 hours for Mr. [Bruce] Berline and 57.3 hours for Mr. [William] Fitzgerald” for a total sum of \$56,955, not including the \$400.75 fee for filing this petition.

The reasonable hourly rate determined for Fitzgerald is \$350 and Berline is \$300, which Gray is asking for.

IPI's failure to comply therefore requires them to pay Gray's attorney's Bruce Ber-

line and William Fitzgerald which begins with “the drafting of a Status Report that was filed [by Gray] on April 7, 2021.”

The next billing event was for May 3, 2021, when Gray filed two motions against IPI which were “motion for determination of defendant IPI's waiver of privilege and IPI's motion for reconsideration of entry of default,” brought to court on June 3, 2021.

The final billing event for this petition was made on Sept. 30, 2021. According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, “Berline filed a motion requesting the court to issue an order to show cause against IPI for violating the court's order. Berline stated in his motion that over the span of more than one year, IPI has disobeyed multiple discovery orders resulting in the court finding IPI in contempt twice.”

In all, “the undertaking required to draft the documents for the plaintiff's motion for waiver of privilege and to respond to IPI's two motions to vacate the entry of default judgment was extensive and time consuming. The work needed to draft the documents required a tremendous amount of research as well as extensive review of prior filings and court transcripts.”

“IPI must pay Gray attorney's fees and costs for having to litigate the motion to vacate, the prior motion for reconsideration, the motion for privilege, as well as any fees and costs resulting from IPI's failure to comply with discovery orders not previously awarded,” stated court documents from March 30.

Gray sued IPI for alleged immigration violations, wrongful failure to hire, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MANUEL JOSE ALVAREZ :
(NAME OF FATHER) :

HELIO MANUEL SHAO : FCD PA
(NAME OF CHILD) : CIVIL ACTION
PLAINTIFFS : NO. 22-0130

VS. : SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

YANQIN SHAO :
(NAME OF MOTHER) :
DEFENDANT :

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
YANQIN SHAO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is Box 10003 PMB 86, Garapan Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2022.

/s/ Clerk of Court

The spirit of Easter
is all about hope, love,
and joyful living. May you
have a blessed day!

Happy Easter!



From the management and staff of

WUSHIN
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■ **Thursday, April 21st** 9:00am - 4:00pm
■ **Friday, April 22nd** 9:00am - 4:00pm
at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan



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Instrument Sciences
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

JKPL closed today



In observance of Good Friday, which is a CNMI legal holiday, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed today, April 15, 2022. Regular library hours will resume on Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Thank you and enjoy the time with family and friends.

Contact (670) 235-7323/7322 (READ) or visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Hours of Operation: Open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 6pm; Friday, 1:30pm to 7pm; and Saturday, 9:30am

to 4pm; Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays.

Visit or contact the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota (670) 532-7329. Hours of Operation: Open Monday to Friday, from 8:30am to 5:30pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 12:30pm; closed Sundays and holidays.

Visit or contact the Tinian Public Library at (670) 433-0504. Hours of Operation: Open Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm; closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. **(PR)**

Law Day proclamation signing

The NMI Judiciary will once again host the three branches of government at its annual Law Day proclamation signing ceremony on April 20, 2022. The Judiciary, along with the Office of the Governor, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the U.S. District Court, and the CNMI Bar Association will come together to sign a proclamation centering on this year's theme: "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change."

Law Day is commemorated annually throughout the United States on May 1, and it provides people around the nation the opportunity to celebrate the advantages of having a nation of laws. The American

Bar Association selected this year's theme to acknowledge every person's individual contribution to the legal system and to highlight "how each of us works—together—toward a more perfect Union."

In the CNMI, the celebration of this theme will span a month, from April 20 to May 20, 2022. A poster contest for elementary students and an essay contest for middle school students were held. The winners will be announced during the ceremony and the CNMI Youth Congress will participate by reading this year's proclamation. The NMI Judiciary hopes that Law Day will continue to inspire active, open, and peaceful discussion throughout our island communities. **(PR)**

**Have a Blessed
Good Friday
&
Happy Easter**

In observance of Good Friday, our Oleai store will be closed on April 15. Our Kada Dia Payment Center is open 11 AM to 3:30 PM for bill payments. For assistance, you can chat online with a customer service representative at ite.net or call (670) 682-4483.

IT&E

ite.net itecnm itecnm

The spirit of Easter is all about hope, love, and joyful living.

May you have a blessed day!

**HAPPY
Easter**

Hafa Adai! From the management and staff of
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Support local entrepreneurs at NMC Business Night



As part of its efforts to promote local entrepreneurs, the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network (CNMI SBDCN) will be hosting a Small Business Night featuring new and upcoming local entrepreneurs and their products and services. The community is invited to attend.

The event, held in collaboration with NMC's Office Student Activities and Lead-

ership, will take place on Thursday, April 21, 2022 from 4pm-7pm at the NMC Mango Terrace (located in the center of NMC's campus). For each purchase made, patrons will receive (1) free ticket for a chance to win some amazing raffle prizes donated by our generous vendors. Entertainment will also be provided.

The Small Business Night will feature a range of products and services which will

include home decor, handwoven accessories, handmade candles, makeup products, hair accessories, upcycled jewelry pieces, handmade pinatas, artisan gelato, and more.

"I am excited to showcase my product and services for the first time to the public at the Small Business Night event. I was invited by the CNMI SBDC Network to join this event and they have helped me build

confidence to showcase my work," said Jennifer Benavente, Owner of Craftify 670.

The event will feature products from the following small businesses: Vivid Beauty, Maie Pachotmu, Candle J Saipan, PalmTrio670, Bonitu Basula, Paopao, Mind-2Muscle, Neni Girl Nails, Cherrymoon.co, Seasoned with Hafa Adai, Craftify670, Tyler's Gelatte Stone, and Chiku Chiku.

SSC to host 'He Has Risen Easter Services'

Saipan Community Church will be offering Easter services starting tonight at its chapel along Beach Road in Susupe.

Dubbed "He Has Risen Easter Services," it starts with a Good Friday Service tonight beginning at 7pm.

It continues bright and early on Sunday with SCC's Easter Sunrise Service starting at 6am and will be followed by a breakfast and brunch fellowship.

The Easter Sunday Regular Service promptly follows at 10am and it will immediately be followed by baptism and SCC's absolutely free "EGG-cellent Resurrection

Adventure." The egg hunt is open to children from pre-K to fifth grade and participants should bring their own baskets. Prizes will be awarded to the participants with the most eggs in his or her basket.

SCC pastor Stephen Dame is inviting everyone to take part in the church's Easter service offerings starting tonight.

"I love Easter/Resurrection Sunday. It is my favorite day of the year. I love to see the church full of people experiencing the hope that Easter brings. Hope that our flaws

don't have to be fatal and our failures aren't not final and that there is more to life than just what we experience here.

We have a life beyond this life to look forward too," Dame said Easter Sunrise Service is very

close to his heart as it reminds him of Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice and His rising from the dead.

"This service reminds us that the women found the tomb of Jesus empty. This service will be followed by a big breakfast. We have a 10am service where we celebrate the hope that we can have be-

cause the tomb was empty. A baptismal service will follow that and then we will have an 'Egg-cellent Resurrection Adventure' for those children up through fifth grade. There will be prize eggs and plenty of candy filled eggs to go around. Participants must attend the 10am service. We look forward to sharing with our community this exciting weekend!" he added.

For more information on SCC's "He Has Risen Easter Services," message SCC pm Facebook (saipancommunitychurch) or follow them on Facebook or Instagram at saipancommunitychurch. (PR)



NMC Northern Marianas College will be hosting an NMC Business Night to feature local entrepreneurs like Tyler's Gelatte Stone and many other local entrepreneurs and their products. The business night will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 4pm to 7pm at NMC's Mango Terrace, which is located in the center of the campus. The community is invited to attend.

*From our family to yours,
Happy Easter, Marianas*

- GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES



Rotary



Danny AQUINO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



James MACARANAS
FACILITIES BUILDING MANAGER



Archie AJOSTE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/
CERTIFIED DOCENT



Wenny HARUO
OFFICE ASSISTANT

The NMI Museum of History and Culture, and the NMI Museum Board of Governors, extends a heartfelt message of thanks and appreciation to the Office of the Governor, Rotary Club of Saipan, Rotaract Club of Saipan, Interact, Saipan Mayor's Office, Division of Youth Services, Tyler's Gelatte and all the sponsors who made our Easter Egg-stravaganza a huge success.

thank you to our partners & sponsors!

Rotaract
Club of Saipan



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



SAIPAN MAYOR'S OFFICE



ESTABLISHED JULY 29, 1991



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HAPPY Easter



TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. MAY YOU ENJOY A JOYFUL AND LOVELY EASTER HOLIDAY.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 75

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Biden's 'ghost gun' rules were needed, but voters must step up for true reform

President Joe Biden on Monday finally carried through on a promise to rein in “ghost guns”—guns assembled from kits that are sold without serial numbers, allowing anyone to own an untraceable weapon. Biden announced new federal requirements including that such kits have serial numbers and that background checks be conducted on those who buy them.

Because of the gun lobby's stranglehold on congressional Republicans, these commonsense changes had to be instituted not by legislation but by executive order, which isn't ideal. In announcing the reforms, Biden properly made another pitch for universal background checks, bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and an end to civil liability immunity that the gun industry enjoys for the mayhem it enables.

Those aren't reforms a president can impose unilaterally—they would need congressional approval, which is unlikely under the current Congress. But there was value in reminding America that, even as the body count rises—with Tuesday's attack on New York's subway system as just the latest example—the gun lobby and its GOP enablers deserve to be considered accomplices.

How unreasonable is that unholy alliance? The guns made from unassembled firearms kits that the gun lobby thinks shouldn't be regulated are increasingly showing up at crime scenes. And why wouldn't they? Nothing's better for a criminal than an untraceable gun.

The whole point of buying a kit instead of a finished gun is that there isn't a serial number on it. What rationale could anyone—let alone conservatives and gun owners who claim to be in favor of “law and order”—possibly have against simply requiring the same kind of identification on those kits that are already required on finished guns?

A statement by a National Rifle Association official on Fox News Monday was illuminating: “An administration that's truly sincere and resolute about curbing violent crime rates would do one thing: take violent criminals off the streets immediately.” But cracking down on ghost guns is useless against criminals, said the official, “because this ‘ban’ will not affect them.”

The NRA thinks the way to confront violent criminals is to ... allow the continued sale of weapons that cannot be traced when they're found at crime scenes. And the organization thinks that because some who engage in illegal gun trafficking would ignore the new requirements, that's reason to not have any requirements.

What a novel approach to crime-fighting: Just get rid of all laws, and there will be no more lawbreakers!

The ghost gun reforms were needed, but there are limits to how much a president can do without Congress. Polls

See **BIDEN'S** on Next Page



Employees want remote work option and flexible hours. Workplaces would be wise to listen

If the two years of the pandemic have taught us anything, they have shown that many of us can do our jobs remotely and on a schedule that conforms to our responsibilities and lifestyles. Now that a number of companies are requiring their workers to return to the office, they should realize that happy workers are productive workers and would be wise to listen to their employees' feedback. This could especially benefit single parents, who can save a lot of money on child care and spend more time with their children if allowed flexibility with not only where they work, but also when they work.

Flextime has long been a human resources buzzword, but more and more, it is becoming a reality for workers who are demanding more options where possible. Surveys by Morning Consult and Owl Labs found that 30% to 40% of American workers would consider quitting if their employers required them to return to the office full time. More and more, workers are taking that a step further and asking to also work on their own schedule instead of a traditional 8-to-5 schedule.

For many, especially single parents, being able to work remotely and during the hours that suit them best would give them more time to be with their children at home and allow them to attend their child's extracurricular activities and spend less money on child care and fuel costs. These benefits would make them happier and more productive employees.

Many companies have discovered how a flexible work situation also helps them: It allows them to downsize office space and save money on rent and utilities.

Of course, there are some jobs that by their nature do not allow for remote work or flexible hours. In my profession, most solo attorneys cannot take depositions or litigate remotely with maximum effectiveness. Obviously, those in service jobs such as restaurant servers must be present at their place of work. The same holds true for medical workers, factory workers and several other occupations. However, more and more, our economy is made up of jobs that can be done remotely and at hours that work best for the employee.

Adaptations to the pandemic has proved that many jobs can be done remotely—and many workers seem to have grown accustomed to it. Among Americans with jobs that can be done remotely, 59% say they still are working from home much or all of the time, according to a Pew Research Center survey released in February.

And for working parents with kids younger than 18, Pew found a third cited lack of child care as a reason for continuing to work from home, while 15% said there are restrictions on access

By **JEFFERY LEVING**
Chicago Tribune

Jeffery Leving is founder and president of the Law Offices of Jeffery Leving. He is the author of *Fathers' Rights Divorce Wars* and *How to be a Good Divorced Dad*.



to their workplace.

In terms of productivity, 44% say remote work has made it easier for them to get work done and meet deadlines.

This seems to make many employees happier—and that translates to more productivity. A report in *Forbes* last year cited a study by Oxford University's Said Business School that found that happy workers were 13% more productive.

So, the question I'd pose to many businesses is: What could your business do if every single team member was 13% more productive without having to pay them a penny more?

Of course, there are some drawbacks. Many workers have conceded that remote work makes them feel less connected to colleagues. However, one way to resolve this is for employers and employees to compromise. Perhaps going in a couple of days a week would suffice.

As for flexible hours, this is another way to make many employees happier—and in turn, more productive. Flexible hours allow workers to devote their most energetic hours—mornings for early risers and afternoons or evenings for night people—to their work tasks. Employees who are parents, especially single parents, could more easily attend their children's sporting events or recitals, experiences that are priceless. This would foster a sense of pride in and loyalty toward their employer.

Companies may want to set some mandatory core hours to foster collaboration among workers who otherwise might be on different schedules.

The bottom line is that the last two years have changed the workplace for good—and that may indeed be for the better. These changes will not work for every employer and employee. But employees should voice their concerns and preferences. In turn, companies that listen to the desires of their employees and allow for flexibility, in terms of where and when employees work, will be the ones that benefit the most.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lenten Season is about reconnecting and restoring faith in God

As many know, the Catholic community will be completing 40 days of transformation through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During this 40-day season, many people “give up” habits of their choosing, but we also like to encourage them to “take up” something for God. From going to Mass every day and connecting with God to spending more time in spiritual reading, we encourage our parishioners to take on something healthy.

The 40 days leading up to the Paschal Triduum is the pinnacle of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church. It begins on the evening of Holy Thursday and lasts until the evening of Easter Sunday. This season helps us celebrate and understand the value of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—also known as the Paschal mystery. We go through the temptations of sin every day, but within these 40 days, our God is gracious and gives us a chance to see our lives in the eyes of faith so that we can be better people for ourselves, our loved ones and our neighbors.

During the Lenten season, those in good health are asked to fast or abstain from foods on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Ash Wednesday is really what kicks off the Lenten season. When the minister impales the ashes on parishioners’ foreheads, he says, “repent and believe in the gospel,” to which our parishioners say “amen.” The

Lenten calling to repent is really at the core and the heart of the season, where we get to reevaluate and change our lives for the better to become closer and united to God.

Toward the end of the Lenten Season, we have Holy Week in which we dedicate all our time and energy. Holy Week is meaningful because the preparation process is a true labor of love by our clergy and religious sisters, brothers, and sisters in Christ. They pour everything into making every Holy Week and the Lenten season meaningful. Today,

we also celebrate Good Friday, which is the Friday of the Passion of the Lord.

We will resume the annual pilgrimage to Mount Tapochau on Good Friday this year. Many Catholic devotees walk to the top to remember the passion, death, and resurrection Christ.

While we all come out from the Lenten season giving back, I encourage our parishioners to collaborate with the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisers and consider adopting your parish’s parking lot.

The partnership with the GECA is important for us to fulfill our ministries outside of the church and take part in the life of the community here on our island. It will also be a great platform for bringing the church into the community.

The churches are undertaking a synodal path for us to walk

May Lent teach us that this is a time to grow in faith and charity.



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By **RYAN JIMENEZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Pope Francis appointed Bishop Ryan Jimenez to be the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's second bishop on June 24, 2016. Bishop Jimenez' episcopacy is centered on shepherding all the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa toward becoming joyful missionary disciples following his chosen call.

together as different sectors and members of society, regardless of our beliefs or faith. The Synod on synodality is an effort of the church to break the divisions and barriers that separate us from others. We'd like to call everybody to walk together and understand that GECA is a great platform for us to fulfill that synodal calling and work together.

I pray that even after this season, we continue to let go of our weaknesses and our bad habits so that we can understand and learn how far the love of Jesus Christ can go. We can be better people through faith, fasting, and obedience. May Lent teach us that this is a time to grow in faith and charity.

Have a wonderful and blessed Good Friday, and Happy Easter!

For more information, visit the GECA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

‘The time has come for Gov. Torres to step down’

Now that the Office of the Attorney General has filed its criminal complaint against Gov. Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres, it is time for our beleaguered chief executive to resign.

For months, Governor Torres and his supporters have repeatedly argued against his impeachment citing the inaction from the Office of the Public Auditor and the Attorney General. That is no longer the case as the Attorney General charged Gov. Torres with 12 counts of misconduct in public office, one count of theft and one count of contempt.

For the first time in the history of our Commonwealth, a sitting governor faces 13 misdemeanors and one felony. Gov. Torres' continued presence only stands to further divide our people and cast a cloud over our government.

Had Gov. Torres resigned long ago when the allegations first surfaced or when he was officially impeached, he would have

spared our people from the disconnect between the legislative houses and the discord between our citizens. The time has come for Gov. Torres to step down.

While it is true that we should presume innocence until one is proven guilty, our rules for civil servants are clear about what should happen next. Under our Civil Service Commission guidelines, the procedure for employees charged with crimes is found in § 10-20.2-257 Furloughs, Suspensions, Separations for Personal Cause, and Demotions for Disciplinary Reasons (Adverse Actions):

“In the event that criminal charges are filed against an employee, the employee shall be immediately suspended without pay, reassigned, or subject to such other action as management may deem necessary. In the event the charges are dismissed or the employee is found not guilty, the employee shall be reinstated with benefits and pay retroactive to the date of suspension.”

If Governor Torres were a rank-and-file civil service employ-

By PAUL MANGLONA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Sen. Paul Manglona (D-Rota) is a member of the Senate of the 22nd Legislature.

ee, he would now be suspended without pay pending the outcome of his criminal proceedings. Every day he remains in office he not only flaunts his disrespect for the people and the reputation of our Commonwealth, but hinders our fiscal recovery from the pandemic and our return to normalcy.

Getting comfortable in the uncomfortable

By **SHANIAH ALVAREZ**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I learned a new word today—inextricable. It means inseparable or impossible to escape from. I learned this word while researching more about autism spectrum disorder. But before I get to that, let me just share a quick backstory of how I first learned about people-first language. I graduated with my Social Work degree back in May of 2019, and in all my classes, with all my brilliant and amazing professors, the social work students were taught to use person-first/person-centered language. An example would be “a person who has a physical disability” rather than “a physically disabled person.” But back in April 2020, I was aware that it was Autism Awareness Month. And before I did anything to shed light on AAM, I did more research about autism spectrum disorder, watched YouTube videos/interviews with autistic indi-

viduals, and read more articles surrounding the autistic community. This is when I learned that many self-advocates (autistic individuals) in the autistic community and their close family/friends and allies prefer identity-first language/terminology such as saying “I’m autistic,” “she/he’s autistic,” or “autistic individual.”

So, going back to the start of my article, learning that new word—inextricable. According to an article by Autistic Hoya, these self-advocates understand that autism is an inherent part of their identity and an inextricable piece of their identity/personality. I know, right? This totally contradicts everything I first learned (and still learn/do) in my college life, personal life, and work life. But I think it is important to note that different people will prefer different terms—and that’s okay. I remember tweeting about Autism Awareness Month/Day back in April 2020 to recognize and honor autistic individuals and using identity-first language because of what I read, watched, and learned while researching about autism spectrum disorder. I knew some people would assume that it is best to address an autistic individual by saying “individual with autism” because of how most professionals in these kinds of fields learn person-first language.

As I said, different folks will prefer different terms. I understand that being in a profession where you work closely with individuals with disabilities, you want to make sure that you are doing your due diligence and standing with all individuals with disabilities while promoting inclusion as much as possible. I think the best way to tackle this kind of “unsureness” is by simply just asking

autistic individuals what they prefer. Research does show that the autism community mostly prefers identity-first language such as “autistic individual” or “I’m autistic” and it is important to respect that. Although it can feel uncomfortable because of what is conditioned and taught to us in such professions, we must learn to get comfortable in the uncomfortable to continue advocating for individuals with disabilities. Learning and unlearning more ways to be the greatest allies/advocates we can be is the best thing we can do.

You can continue researching and reading more on: <https://www.autistichoya.com/2011/08/significance-of-semantics-person-first.html> and <https://www.centerforautismresearch.org/driven/%E2%80%9Cautistic-person%E2%80%9D-or-%E2%80%9Cperson-autism%E2%80%9D-one-more-correct#:~:text=That%20study%20found%20that%20t,as%20the%20phrase%20they%20preferred>. Lastly, autistic individuals have rights in areas of employment, education, and access to services and Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. is the organization to contact should individuals be discriminated against or face barriers while attempting to access services. So if you or anyone you know needs our service, please contact our office at 670-235-7273/4 or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org. Let us celebrate and empower all individuals who are on the spectrum! Happy Autism Awareness Month!

Shaniah Alvarez is a client advocate at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

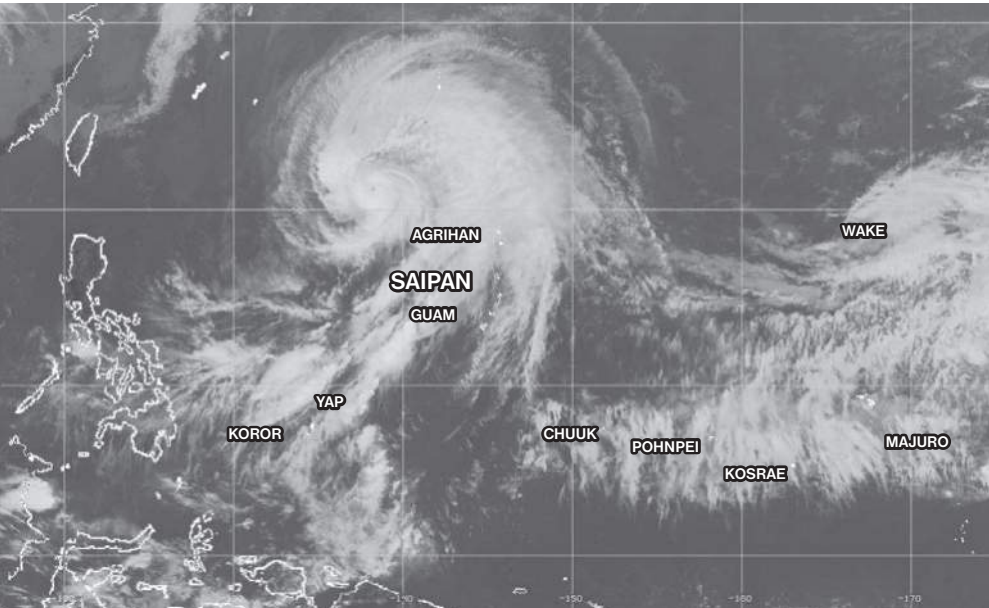
BIDEN'S

From Page 10

show Americans overwhelmingly support reasonable restrictions on firearms, including everything outlined by Biden on Monday—and yet Republicans go unpunished election after election for preventing those reforms. Only when that changes will the bleeding stop.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny. South southeast wind 11 to 16 mph.		Partly sunny. South southwest wind 11 to 14 mph.		Partly cloudy and isolated showers.		Cloudy. Scattered showers, mainly before midnight.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers.	
85°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:16 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows only a few light showers within the Marianas Waters. It also shows an outer rainband of Typhoon Malakas well to the west and northwest. This band could creep closer as Malakas turns more toward the northeast. The buoys reveal combined seas of 9 to 11 feet composed of east swells of 4 to 6 feet, west swells of 7 to 9 feet and some wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Isolated Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	27 / 25 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:03 AM	18:31 PM
Saturday	06:02 AM	18:31 PM
Sunday	06:01 AM	18:31 PM
Monday	06:01 AM	18:31 PM
Tuesday	06:00 AM	18:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	04:52 PM	17:10 PM
Saturday	-	05:31 PM	18:05 PM
Sunday	-	06:12 PM	19:02 PM
Monday	-	06:56 PM	20:02 PM
Tuesday	-	07:45 PM	21:06 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	1 / 12 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	20 / 5 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	25 / 21 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	28 / 22 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	21 / 8 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy/Wind	17 / 8 °F	
Manila	AM Clouds/PM Su	24 / 10 °F	
Melbourne	Cloudy	25 / 14 °F	
Miami	Showers	27 / 23 °F	
New York	Sunny	20 / 12 °F	
Osaka	AM Showers	18 / 11 °F	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	22 / 9 °F	
Busan	Partly Cloudy/Wind	17 / 8 °F	
Rome	AM Clouds/PM Sun	24 / 10 °F	
Salem	Sunny	27 / 15 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	13 / 10 °F	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	19 / 14 °F	
Tokyo	Rain	13 / 9 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	22 / 12 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:27 AM	Low Tide	0.33	
06:50 AM	High Tide	1.92	
1:03 PM	Low Tide	0.58	
6:53 PM	High Tide	1.86	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
				7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Mariana Lighthouse, Casa Décor are latest ProaPerks partners



NMC

Mariana Lighthouse is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

Mariana Lighthouse and Casa Decor are the latest companies to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partners, joining many other

businesses and organizations that provide discounts to NMC students, staff, and alumni. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks

program can now receive a 15% discount (not applicable on special promotions or other discounts) at Mariana Lighthouse and a 5% discount on all merchandise,



NMC

Casa Decor is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

including items on sale at Casa Decor. Both Mariana Lighthouse and Casa Decor join the growing list of ProaPerks partners in the CNMI.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands

of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)

Easter is a time for rejoicing our many blessings from the Lord. We have traveled a road so challenging since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and turned our lives around. The path is now clearer and it is time to tighten our bonds, join hands, and continue our journey that our fathers ad mothers had clearly hoped for us.

Happy
EASTER



David M. Apatang
Mayor of Saipan and staff



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 22 – 032

Opening Date: April 8, 2022
Closing Date: April 21, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Technician, Customer Service Representative
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Customer Service
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Five (5)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives and processes customer payments; screens and verifies check receipts; updates customer accounts; reviews customer account status for partial payment receipts; computes payment information; and issues payment slips.
- May provide field utility meter inspection, testing, investigation, repairs and service documentation.
- Enters and verifies account changes and correction transactions; researches, reconciles and compiles adjustment documentation; prepares billing adjustments; and/or documents customer account status.
- Balances cash and other payment receipts and prepares bank deposits; balances credit card receipts with merchant settlement records; prepares sales deposits; processes customer refund payments; may process and file payroll documents.
- Receives and responds to customer calls and inquiries; reviews account and payment information; explains customer billing regarding charge disputes; assists customers with new accounts, required documentation and application processing; processes work orders as required; and refers inquiries to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and files revenue receipts, change vouchers, and related reports; maintains filing system; and prepares listings, schedules and activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:**Education:** High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 4 years of utility accounts or fiscal support experience.**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.**Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage and testing (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching, reconciling and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.**Licensing:** Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.orgP. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director**INVITATION TO BID
CUC-IFB-22-025****SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-22-025, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 PM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 28, 2022.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive DirectorMANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Business

**BUSINESS BRIEFS****Amazon adds 5% ‘fuel and inflation surcharge’ to seller fees**

Amazon is taking a step to offset its rising costs, announcing Wednesday it will add a 5% “fuel and inflation surcharge” to fees it charges third-party sellers who use the e-commerce giant's fulfillment services. The Seattle-based company said on its website that the added fees, which take effect April 28, are “subject to change” and will apply to both apparel and non-apparel items. The latest fee hike follows one announced in November and went into effect in January. Amazon didn't immediately respond to a request for further details on the recent move. But in a notice sent to sellers Wednesday, the company said its costs had gone up since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic due to increases in hourly wages, the hiring of workers and construction of more warehouses. It said it had absorbed costs whenever possible, and only increased fees to address permanent costs and to be competitive with other providers. Amazon competitors FedEx and UPS both have fuel surcharges.

Juul to pay \$22.5 million to settle Washington vaping suit**OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)**—E-cigarette giant Juul Labs will pay Washington state \$22.5 million and has agreed to a variety of reforms to prevent underage use and sales under a settlement announced Wednesday by state Attorney General Bob Ferguson. Ferguson filed a consumer protection lawsuit in September 2020, saying the country's largest e-cigarette company targeted underage consumers and deceived consumers about the addictiveness of its product. “Juul's conduct harmed Washingtonians,” Ferguson said at a news conference in Seattle. “They harmed the youth of our state.” Ferguson said that upon the product's launch in 2015, the company flooded social media with colorful ads, fueling a spike in use and nicotine addiction among teenagers. The percentage of vaping high school sophomores in Washington rose from 13% in 2016 to nearly 21% by 2018, according to Ferguson's office.**California plan aims to triple sale of electric cars by 2026****SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**—California wants elec-

tric vehicle sales to triple in the next four years to 35% of all new car purchases, an aggressive target set as part of the goal to phase out the sale of gas-powered cars by the middle of next decade. The California Air Resources Board's proposal would slowly raise the sale of new cars that are electric, hydrogen-powered or plug-in hybrids to 100% by 2035. About 11% of all new passenger car sales nationally happen in California, giving the state significant influence over the auto market. Californians would still be allowed to drive gas-powered cars and sell used ones, meaning planet-warming emissions will still spew from the state's roadways. The hoped-for boost in electric vehicle sales will also require a major increase in charging stations. California has set a goal of 250,000 charging stations by 2025, and right now there are fewer than 80,000 stations in public spaces or in parking lots at office buildings, apartment buildings and other shared spaces. The California Energy Commission last year approved spending \$314 million over three years for passenger car charging stations and Newsom added more in his proposed state budget.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director**REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL
AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
CUC-RAESP-22-019****A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection
the for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade (W21-081)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection of the Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Papago Drive, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RAESP-22-019, A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive DirectorMANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

Police search for motive in US subway suspect videos



AP
New York City Police and law enforcement officials lead subway shooting suspect Frank R. James, 62, center, away from a police station, in New York, Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

NEW YORK (AP)—Frank James posted dozens of videos ranting about race, violence and his struggles with mental illness. One stands out for its relative calm: A silent shot of a packed New York City subway car in which he raises his finger to point out passengers, one by one.

Even as police arrested James on Wednesday in the Brooklyn subway shooting that wounded 10 people, they were still searching for a motive from a flood of de-

tails about the 62-year-old Black man’s life.


An erratic work history. Arrests for a string of mostly low-level crimes. A storage locker with more ammo. And hours of rambling, bigoted, profanity-laced videos on his YouTube channel that point to a deep, simmering anger.

“This nation was born in violence, it’s kept alive by violence or the threat thereof, and it’s going to die a violent death,” says James in a video where he takes on the moniker “Prophet of Doom.”



The great gift of Easter is hope.
Wishing you all a safe and meaningful celebration.

Happy Easter!





From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
and the Members of the 22nd Senate
Commonwealth Legislature and staff

May the Lenten Season be filled with many blessings for you.

Happy EASTER

FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF



Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com




HEALTH
IS
WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Death toll from Philippine landslides, floods rises to 43

villagers Monday in flooded central communities, including some who were trapped on their roofs. In central Cebu city, schools and work were suspended Monday and Mayor Michael Rama declared a state of calamity to allow the rapid release of emergency funds.

fail to give way,” Condon said. The truck driver was not injured. No one in the women’s SUV survived. The truck hit the driver’s side door and dragged the SUV along the highway for 150 meters (492 feet), Condon said. The women, aged in their 20s, died at the scene. They were living and working at a nearby farm.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

Tels: (670) 233-9447
233-9448
233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AVAILABILITY OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM

March 31, 2022

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program made possible through the US Department of Treasury. The CNMI was allocated a total amount of **\$4,158,268** in HAF funds, of which approximately 10% or \$400,000 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 90% or \$3,758,268, will be used for the following types of assistance for CNMI **homeowners**:

- 1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$25,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 2) Mortgage payment assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$20,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$1,716 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 4) Utilities/Broadband Assistance:
 - a. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$6,000 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquencies in utility payments)
 - b. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$1,500 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future utility payments)
 - c. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$600 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquency in broadband service payments)
 - d. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$150 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future broadband service payments)

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Homeowners:

- Must be a resident of the CNMI
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least month delinquent) (for mortgage delinquency assistance)
- For those seeking insurance arrears assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments

Income Limits

FY 2021 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Islands								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$85,050	\$90,500

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the NMHC Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, www.nmhc.gov.net (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at (670) 234-6866

/s/

Jesse S. Palacios

Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

World

Presidents from countries on Russia's doorstep visit Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The presidents of four countries on Russia's doorstep visited Ukraine on Wednesday and underscored their support for the embattled country, where they saw heavily damaged buildings and demanded accountability for what they called war crimes carried out by Russian forces.

The visit by the presidents of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was a strong show of solidarity from the countries on NATO's eastern flank, three of them like Ukraine once part of the Soviet Union. The leaders traveled by train to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, to meet with their counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and visited Borodyanka, one of the nearby towns where evidence of atrocities was found after Russian troops withdrew to focus on the country's east.

"The fight for Europe's future is happening here," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda said, calling for tougher sanctions, including against Russia's oil and gas shipments and all the country's banks.

Elsewhere, in one of the most crucial battles of the war, Russia said more than 1,000 Ukrainian troops had surrendered in the besieged southern port of Mariupol, where Ukrainian forces have been



People walk past a crater from an explosion in Chernihiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

holding out in pockets of the city. A Ukrainian official denied the claim, which could not be verified.

And in the Odesa region, Gov. Maksym Marchenko said Ukrainian forces struck the guided-missile cruiser Moskva—the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet—with two missiles and caused "serious damage." The Russian Defense Ministry confirmed the ship was damaged but not that it was hit by Ukraine—it said ammunition on board detonated as a result of a fire, the causes of which "were being

established." The entire crew was evacuated, it added. The cruiser usually has about 500 officers and crew.

Russia invaded on Feb. 24 with the goal, according to Western officials, of taking Kyiv, toppling the government and installing a Moscow-friendly one. But the ground advance slowly stalled and Russia lost potentially thousands of fighters. The conflict has killed untold numbers of Ukrainian civilians and forced millions more to flee. It also has rattled the world economy, threatened global food sup-

plies and shattered Europe's post-Cold War balance.

A day after he called Russia's actions in Ukraine "a genocide," U.S. President Joe Biden approved \$800 million in new military assistance to Ukraine, saying weapons from the West have sustained Ukraine's fight so far and "we cannot rest now." The munitions include artillery systems, armored personnel carriers and helicopters.

Appearing alongside Zelenskyy in an ornate room in Kyiv's historic Mariinskyi Palace on Wednesday, Nausėda, Estonian President Alar Karis, Poland's Andrzej Duda

and Egils Levits of Latvia reiterated their commitment to supporting Ukraine politically and with military aid.

"We know this history. We know what Russian occupation means. We know what Russian terrorism means," Duda said. He added that both those who committed war crimes and those who gave the orders should be held accountable.

"If someone sends aircraft, if someone sends troops to shell residential districts, kill civilians, murder them, this is not war," he said. "This is cruelty, this is banditry, this is terrorism."

WORLD BRIEFS

Truck hits tourist bus in Egypt, kills 10 including 4 French

CAIRO (AP) — A tourist bus collided with a truck on a highway in southern Egypt and burst into flames on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people, including four French citizens and a Belgian national. Five Egyptians were also killed in the crash, authorities said. The crash happened on a highway about 43 kilometers (27 miles) south of the city of Aswan, provincial authorities said in a statement. The bus was traveling to the Temple of Esna on the west bank of the Nile River, some 55 kilometers (34 miles) south of the ancient city of Luxor. At least 14 other passengers on the bus were injured in the crash, including eight from France and six from Belgium, the authorities said. The five Egyptian fatalities included the bus driver, his assistant and a tour guide, along with two people who were in the truck, the public prosecutor's office said in a statement. After the collision, the bus veered off the road and burst into flames. An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the crash.

Israeli forces kill 3 Palestinians in raids in West Bank


JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces on Wednesday shot and killed three Palestinians, including a teenage boy, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as Israeli troops continued a days-long operation in the occupied West Bank in response to a spate of deadly attacks. The three deaths, all in separate incidents, were the latest in a wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence that has erupted as Muslims mark the holy month of Ramadan. In two cases, the Israeli military

said its troops fired at suspects who threw firebombs at soldiers during West Bank operations. But Palestinian officials said one of the two, lawyer Mohammed Assaf, 34, just happened to inadvertently drive into a battle zone in the northern West Bank town of Beita. The other was a 14-year-old, killed by Israeli army fire in Husan, a village near Bethlehem, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Flooding continues in South Africa's Durban area; 259 dead

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Flooding in South Africa's Durban area has taken at least 259 lives and is a "catastrophe of enormous proportions," President Cyril Ramaphosa said Wednesday.

"This disaster is part of climate change. It is telling us that climate change is serious, it is here," said Ramaphosa, visiting flooded areas of Durban and the surrounding eThekweni metropolitan area. "We no longer can postpone what we need to do, and the measures we need to take to deal with climate change," he said. The death toll is expected to continue rising as search and rescue operations continue in KwaZulu-Natal province, officials said. The province is about to be declared a disaster area by the national government, said Ramaphosa. "KwaZulu-Natal is going to be declared a provincial area of disaster, so that we are able to do things quickly. The bridges have collapsed, the roads have collapsed, people have died and people are injured," said Ramaphosa. He said one family had lost 10 members in the devastating floods.



In loving memory of
† IVAN K. PROPST, JR.
 April 22, 1939 to March 22, 2022

Parents: †Ivan K. Propst and †Dorothy Paulsen Propst

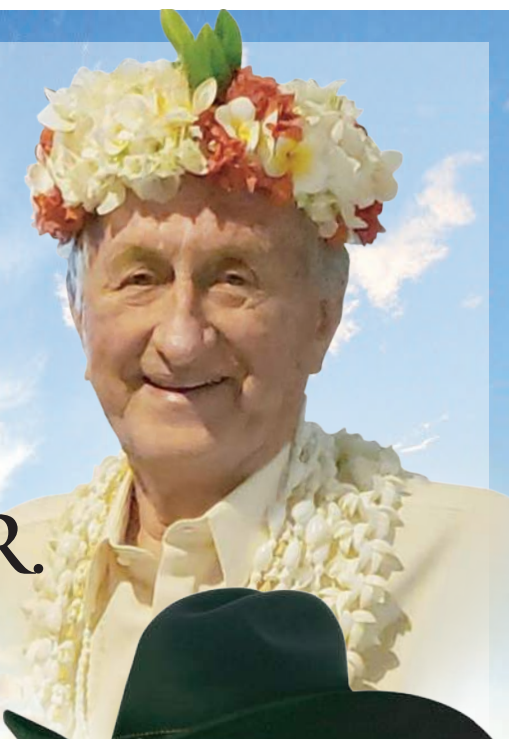
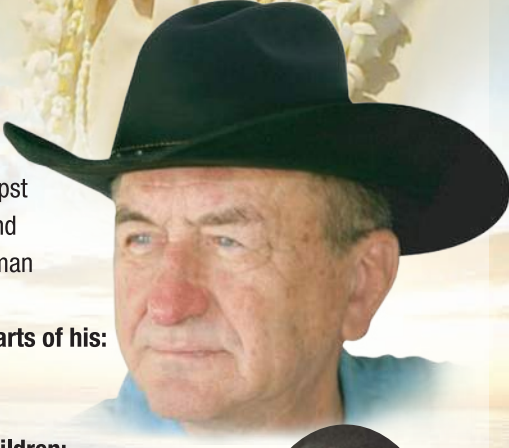

Parents in law: †Zacharias Palman and †Gloria Saavedra Palman

His memories will forever be in the hearts of his:
Wife of 56 years: Juanita Palman Propst

Children/Grandchildren/Great grandchildren:
 Maria "Lynn" and Jon Gersonde [*Derek and Elena (Javon and Ryusei), Austen, Danielle*]
 Gloria and Vernon Perez [*Veronica, Sylvia, Yvonne*]
 Edwin and Daisy Propst [*Kiana, Devin, Kaden, Logan*]

Sisters: Donna Greenlee, Ann Beasley (Gary)

He is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends throughout the U.S. mainland, CNMI, Guam, Philippines, Norway, Palau, Hawaii, and American Samoa.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022 at Saipan Community Church with viewing from 8am-10am followed by a memorial service.

Undangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase, Ghilissow, Maraming salamat po, Ke kmal me sulang, Mahalo, Fa'afetai tele lava, and Thank you,

THE PROPST FAMILY

Off The Wall

2 rescue dogs watch out for their rescuers

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—In Rio de Janeiro, two rescue dogs have turned local mascots and budding online influencers after joining their rescuers' ranks, wooing their growing audience, one bark at a time.

Corporal Oliveira, a dog with short brown hair thought to be around four years old, turned up one morning in 2019 at a police station on Rio's Governador Island, injured and weak.

"I gave him food, water. It took a while for him to get used to me," said Cpl. Cristiano Oliveira, the officer who took the dog under his wing and later gave him his name. But within a few days, Corporal Oliveira — the furry animal — started following his new master around the precinct. Oliveira has since joined another precinct, but the dog never left.

Corporal Oliveira has his own Instagram profile with more than 45,000 fervent followers, always hungry for more photos and videos of their mascot in his trademark police uniform, standing on top of police armoured ve-



Police Cpl. Cristiano de Oliveira offers a hand to police dog "Corporal Oliveira," at the 17 Military Police Battalion's station, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, April 7, 2022.

hicles, motorcycles or sticking his little head out of a regular patrol car's window. He even has a miniature toy firearm attached to his uniform.

A dozen miles from there, in the leafy and leftist neighborhood of Laranjeiras, another rescue dog has turned mascot.

Caramello — a name inspired by the colour of his fur — has been residing at the fire brigade that found him injured across the iconic Sugarloaf mountain ever since he was rescued nearly a year ago. During that time, the 11-year-

old dog has amassed some 27,000 followers.

Older, and slightly less adventurous than Corporal Oliveira, Caramello's online efforts have focused on drawing attention to a wide range of good causes and campaigns.

He has used his newly found clout to promote awareness around cancer, or to encourage donations for victims of natural disasters such as the recent deadly landslides in Petropolis. He's also helped other rescue dogs or cats find new homes.

Mechanic finds windfall from art in dumpster

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP)—A trove of paintings and other artwork found in an abandoned barn has turned out to be worth millions.

Notified by a contractor, Waterbury auto mechanic Jared Whipple retrieved the dirt-covered pieces in 2017 from a dumpster containing materials from a barn in Watertown. Whipple later found out they were by Francis Hines, an abstract expressionist who died in 2016 at 96 and had kept his work stored in the barn, Hearst Connecticut Media Group reported.

Hines was renowned for his "wrapping" pieces, in which fabric is wrapped around an object. His art has been compared to that of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, who became famous for wrapping installations around Europe, including the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Hines wrapped more than 10 buildings in New York including the Washington Square Arch, JFK Airport and the Port Authority Bus Terminal, art curator and historian Peter Hastings Falk told the news outlet.

The hundreds of pieces of art retrieved by Whipple included paintings, sculptures and small drawings. Hastings Falk estimated the "wrapped" paintings can be sold at around \$22,000 apiece and his drawings at around \$4,500.

Whipple showed some of the pieces at a gallery in Waterbury last year, and recently decided to sell some of the art. He is collaborating with Hollis Taggart, a New York City-based gallery, on exhibits in New York and Connecticut in shows beginning next month.

Man gets 2 years for multistate motorized golf cart thefts

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—A Florida man linked to dozens of motorized golf cart thefts in the Upper Midwest was sentenced Tuesday to two years in federal prison. The FBI began investigating Nathan Rodney Nelson in July 2019 after the Cass County Sheriff's Office in Fargo, North Dakota, asked for help in solving a series of golf cart thefts starting in 2017 in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Nelson, a former Minnesota resident living in Apollo Beach, Florida, was eventually arrested in June

2020 while he was caught trying to steal golf carts from a dealer in Donalsonville, Georgia. He also was carrying pre-printed serial number labels and burglary tools, according to court documents. Investigators say he stole at least 63 golf carts in seven states, worth at least \$283,500. Nelson would typically steal carts in pairs from rural Midwestern golf courses, usually at night. He sold many of the carts under the alias Mason Weber, at a cost of about \$2,500 each, court documents show. De-

fense attorney Lorelle Moeckel said in a sentencing memorandum that her client was not able to keep his business going and pay his bills. He came up with the idea to steal golf carts to solve his financial problems and "from there it became easier and easier for him to stray from his long held moral compass." Nelson pleaded guilty in December to interstate transportation of stolen property. His sentencing calls for him to serve three years of supervised release and pay back about \$14,000.

Science & Technology

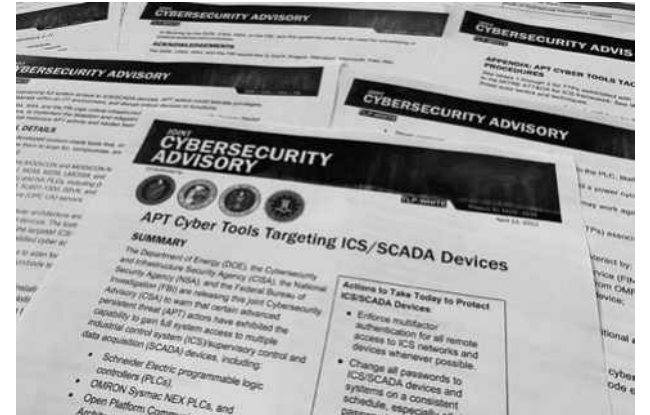
US agencies: Industrial control system malware is discovered

BOSTON (AP)—Multiple U.S. government agencies issued a joint alert Wednesday warning of the discovery of a suite of malicious cyber tools created by unnamed advanced threat actors that are capable of sabotaging the energy sector and other critical industries.

The public alert from the Energy and Homeland Security Departments, the FBI and National Security Agency did not name the actors or offer details on the find. But their private sector cybersecurity partners said the evidence suggests Russia is behind the industrial control system-disrupting tools—and that they were configured to initially target North American energy concerns.

One of the cybersecurity firms involved, Mandiant, called the tools "exceptionally rare and dangerous."

In a report, it called the tools' functionality was "consistent with the malware used in Russia's prior physical attacks" though it



A joint cybersecurity advisory released by the Department of Energy, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the National Security Agency and the FBI is photographed in Washington, Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

acknowledged that the evidence linking it to Moscow is "largely circumstantial."

The CEO of another government partner, Robert M. Lee of Dragos, agreed that a state actor almost certainly crafted the malware, which he said was configured to initially target liquefied natural gas and electric power sites in North America.

Lee referred questions on the state actor's identity to the U.S. government

and would not explain how the malware was discovered other than to say it was caught "before an attack was attempted."

"We're actually one step ahead of the adversary. None of us want them to understand where they screwed up," said Lee. "Big win."

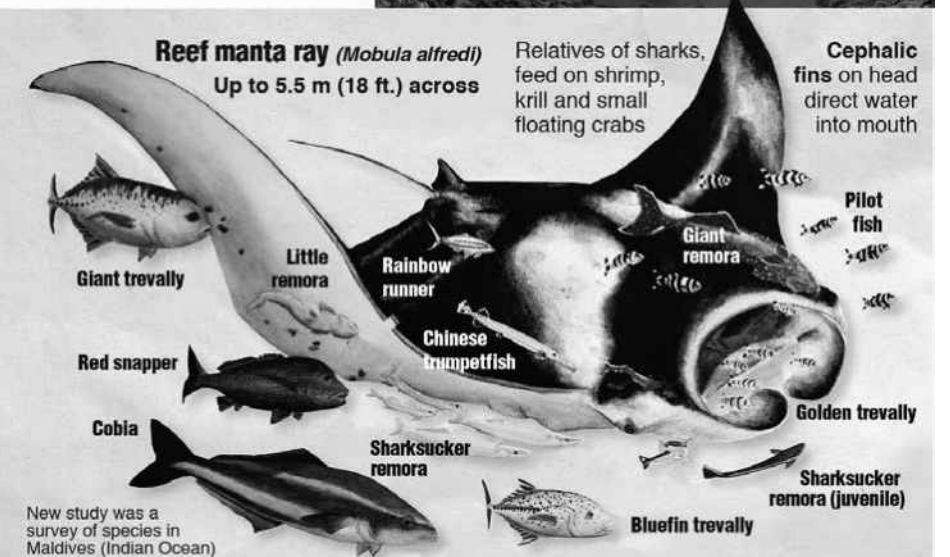
The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which published the alert, declined to identify the threat actor.

Science Matters

Hitchhikers' guide to the manta rays

Various "hitchhiker" fish have been found associating with manta rays, including species not previously known to accompany the mantas.

Remoras clinging to the under side of a manta ray



New study was a survey of species in Maldives (Indian Ocean)

Hitchhikers may only get protection from predators by the ray but give it no benefit (commensal relationship)

Remoras and other species clean the ray of parasites (mutualist relationship)

Source: Aimee E. Nicholson-Jack of The Manta Trust; University of Bristol Vet Science School Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2021 TNS

Symbiosis: Species living together*

Mutualism	Commensalism	Parasitism
Both of the organisms benefit	One benefits; the other is unaffected	One benefits; the other is harmed

Sometimes occasional, sometimes essential long-term association

Life & Style

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr pleads guilty to forcible touching

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. pleaded guilty Wednesday to forcibly kissing a worker at a New York nightclub in 2018 in a deal that is likely to keep him out of jail.

Gooding also publicly apologized for the first time to two other women who accused him of similar behavior in separate encounters, calling himself a “celebrity figure” who meant no harm.

His admissions were part of a plea deal that came nearly three years after the Oscar-winning “Jerry Maguire” star was arrested in the case that saw several delays as his lawyers sought to get charges reduced or dismissed.

“I apologize for making anybody ever feel inappropriately touched,” he said. “I am a celebrity figure. I come into contact with people. I never want them to feel slighted or uncomfortable in any way.”

Gooding, 54, accused of violating three different women at various Manhattan night spots in 2018 and 2019, plead-



Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. appears in court, Jan. 22, 2020, in New York.

AP

ed guilty to just one of the allegations. He told the judge he “kissed the waitress on her lips” without consent at the LAVO New York club.

The deal lets Gooding avoid any possibility of jail time if he continues “alcohol and behavior modification” counseling for six months. After that, he can withdraw the misde-

meanor plea and instead plead guilty to a lesser violation of harassment.

Gooding was arrested in June 2019 after a 29-year-old woman told police he fondled her without her consent at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge near Times Square.

The accuser in that encounter, Kelsey Harbert, was

allowed to speak in court on Wednesday, recounting how, out of nowhere, Gooding grabbed her breast “as if I was a piece of meat for dinner that night.”

Harbert, now 31, told the court she thought Gooding was getting off easy, while his accusers continue to suffer.

“I feel very sad and feel

very lost for what I can do,” she said.

A few months after his arrest, Gooding was charged in two additional cases as more women came forward to accuse him of abuse. The new charges alleged he pinched a server’s buttocks after making a sexually suggestive remark to her at TAO Downtown and forcibly touched the woman at LAVO, both in 2018.

Gooding had previously pleaded not guilty to six misdemeanor counts and denied all allegations of wrongdoing. His lawyers have argued that overzealous prosecutors, caught up in the fervor of the #MeToo movement, are trying to turn “commonplace gestures” or misunderstandings into crimes.

Judge Curtis Farber earlier had ruled if the Gooding case went to trial, prosecutors could have called two additional women to testify about their allegations that Gooding also violated them. Prosecutors say the judge had since reversed that decision—a ruling that

factored into their decision to not go to trial.

“We credit and believe all the survivors in this case,” said prosecutor Coleen Balbert. But under the circumstances, Wednesday’s outcome “is a fair and equitable disposition,” she added.

Along with the criminal case, Gooding is accused in a lawsuit of raping a woman in New York City in 2013. After a judge issued a default judgment in July because Gooding hadn’t responded to the lawsuit, the actor retained a lawyer and is fighting the allegations.

Gloria Allred, an attorney representing three of Gooding’s accusers, said in a statement that they would press ahead with civil litigation to hold him accountable.

“Justice was significantly delayed in this case for many reasons, and I do not feel that justice was achieved today with the entry of this plea, although I do understand why under the circumstances that the prosecution offered a plea,” she said.

Depp’s friend expresses doubts over Heard’s allegations

A longtime friend and next-door neighbor of Johnny Depp testified Wednesday that Depp’s ex-wife, Amber Heard, had told him the movie star threw a phone at her and hit her inside the couple’s Los Angeles penthouse.

But Isaac Baruch said he never noticed any evidence of abuse on Heard’s face, both when he first saw her in the hallway or the next day in the sunlit lobby of their art deco-style building.

“She’s got her face out like this to show me, and I’m looking, and I inspect her face,” Baruch said of the encounter

in May 2016. “And I don’t see anything. ... I don’t see a cut, a bruise, swelling, redness.”

Baruch is the second witness called in the trial over Depp’s allegations that Heard falsely portrayed him as a domestic abuser. Depp says that an opinion piece Heard wrote for The Washington Post in 2018 indirectly defamed him.

Heard refers to herself in the article as a “public figure representing domestic abuse.” It doesn’t name Depp. But his attorneys argue that it clearly referenced a restraining order that Heard sought in May 2016, right after Depp told her

he wanted a divorce.

Depp denies abusing Heard.

Baruch, a painter, has been friends with Depp since 1980. He also worked at the Viper Room when the “Pirates of the Caribbean” actor partly owned the famed Los Angeles club. Baruch said Depp has financially supported him, providing him with places to live and giving him about \$100,000 over the years.

Baruch testified that he noticed no makeup on Heard’s face when she said Depp hit her. But during cross-examination, Baruch conceded he didn’t know if Heard—who

worked with cosmetics giant L’Oreal—had applied any concealer, foundation, powder or tint.

At one point, Baruch got emotional, stating that Heard needs to “take responsibility and move on.”

He said he never saw violence from Depp.

“His family has been completely wrecked by all of this stuff, and it’s not fair,” Baruch said. “It’s not right, what she did. ... It’s insane.”

Baruch also testified that he saw security video showing Heard’s sister Whitney throwing a fake punch at

Heard’s face while the two waited for an elevator in the building where he and Depp and Heard lived.

“And then they start laughing,” Baruch said.

Depp’s attorneys argue that the sisters were practicing for a real punch to to feign abuse from Depp.

But Heard’s lawyers have said the evidence will show that Depp physically and sexually assaulted Heard on multiple occasions. And they’ve argued that Depp’s denials lack credibility because he frequently drank and used drugs to the point of blacking out and failing to remember anything he did.

The first witness called for the trial was Depp’s older sister, Christi Dembrowski, who faced a barrage of questions from Heard’s lawyers about Depp’s alcohol and drug use.

When she took the stand Tuesday, Dembrowski said she and her brother endured a difficult childhood in which Depp learned to hide from an abusive mother. Dembrowski, who also worked as Depp’s personal manager, said she saw the same pattern in Depp’s relationship with Heard, adding that she would book an extra hotel room for Depp if Heard started a fight.

Widow’s friend unsettled when mystery man appears

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine lost her husband a couple of years ago. I didn’t think she was looking for love or companionship, but all of a sudden she has met a younger man, and I’m concerned. I have observed several red flags, but I’m not sure if I should say something.

She owns a home in a big city and another smaller, very nice one with a view of the lake in a resort town three hours away. This man has posted on his main Facebook page a picture of “his” new cabin. (I don’t have any details regarding who else was there.) I looked at his Facebook pictures and saw one of his daughter, who looks to be around 13, along with several pictures of a woman I assume to be his beautiful significant other posing with him and his daughter.

On my friend’s birthday, he showed up at her door with a huge bouquet, balloons and all. She called a mutual friend about the flowers and was all giddy. This scenario makes me suspect he’s a predator who may start asking her for money. What, if anything, should I do?

FRIEND SEEING SIGNS

DEAR FRIEND: If it were me, I’d ask my friend how SHE

enjoyed the family party at her lake house -- and whether she has seen what this new man in her life has posted about it on his FB. Then, I would tell her how seeing his claim that the place is “his” made you do a double-take. After that, I would simply listen.

◆◆◆◆

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, “Gladys,” was never a particularly good mother as her kids were growing up. We don’t get along very well. She interjects herself into every aspect of my family’s life, especially when some sort of crisis happens. Most recently, it concerned the death of my wife’s father’s second wife. Gladys actually parked her truck in front of ours to prevent us from going over there to give him emotional support.

When she acts like this, my wife refuses to stand up to her. This woman has more than once come between me and my family. How should I confront her and my wife about this? I feel like Gladys had her chance, but now it is my place to call the shots. Please tell me if I am being unreasonable.

HUSBAND AND DAD IN GEORGIA

DEAR HUSBAND: I don’t think you are being unreason-

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



able. I do think you need to have a serious, private conversation with your wife. You both need to learn how to set firm boundaries for her mother. If you need help doing that, consult a marriage counselor. A marriage in which one spouse feels sidelined is headed for trouble.

◆◆◆◆

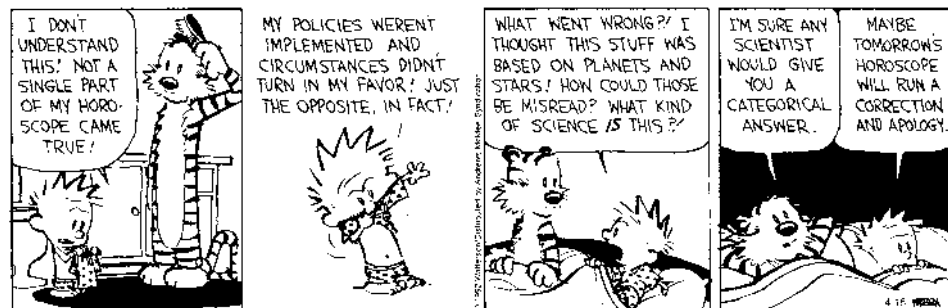
DEAR READERS: At sundown, the first night of Passover begins. This major Jewish holiday celebrates the most momentous event in Jewish history -- the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. Happy Passover to my readers who observe this important holiday.

LOVE, ABBY

Pastimes

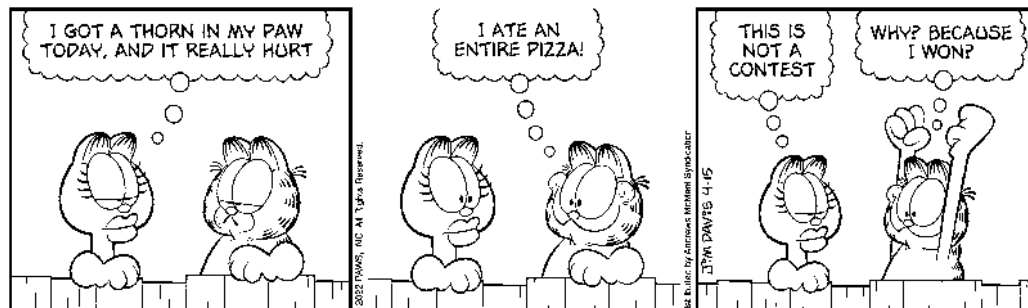
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



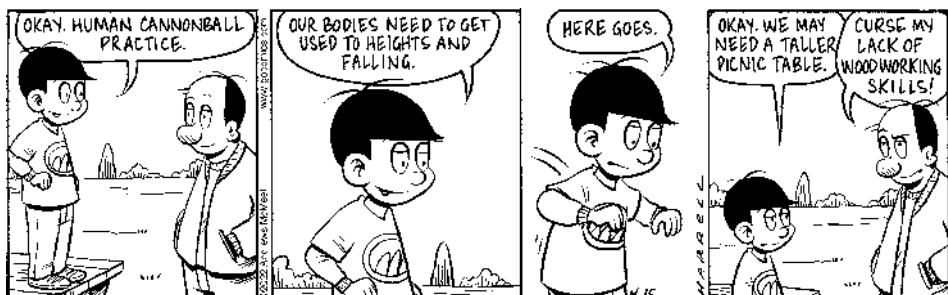
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vegas opener

4 Each

8 True pals, in texts

12 Author Umberto

13 Sultry Home

14 Slightly

15 Witch's pot

17 Pen tips

18 Doja Cat's music

19 Suitable

21 Ger. neighbor

22 Bathtub seals

26 Gather

29 Stanley Cup org.

30 Storm center

31 In — land

32 Chemical suffix

33 Like ganders

34 Comic Philips

35 Crime lab evidence

36 Stir

37 Political meeting

39 Mess up

40 Verse by Pablo Neruda

41 Brain-teaser

45 Serb or Croat

48 Guarded

50 Skin opening

51 Carton sealer

52 Ton fractions (Abbr.)

53 Chopping tools

54 Pre-college exams

55 Author Tolstoy

DOWN

1 Nobelist Walesa

2 Super-fruit berry

3 Gumbo or bisque, e.g.

4 Novelist Huxley

5 Criminals, to cops

6 Yoko from Tokyo

7 Grand style

8 African language group

9 J. Edgar's org.

10 Little lie

11 Rds.

16 — apso (small dog)

20 Bud

23 Tap problem

24 Mac-Lachlan of "Twin Peaks"

25 Beheld

26 Sir Guinevere

27 Nursery cry

28 Slugger Moises

29 Secret-protecting doc.

32 Bugs

33 — Gras

35 Flop

36 Jots

38 Small inlets

39 Blow one's top

42 Ken or Barbie

43 Garage job

44 Old U.S. gas brand

45 Hotel amenity

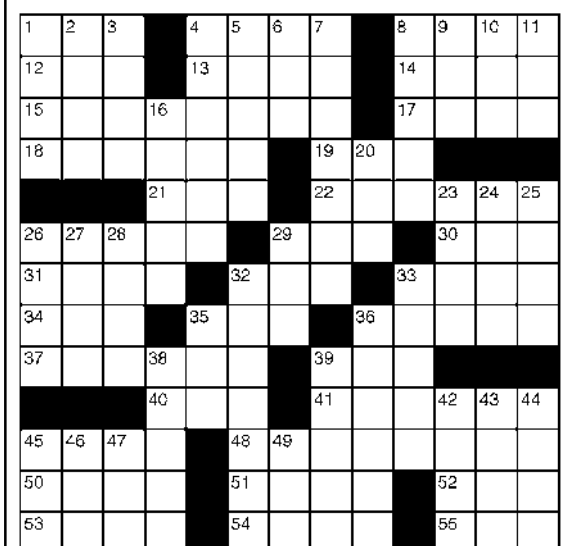
46 Bagel topper

47 "— you for real?"

49 Small battery

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-15



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Emma Watson, 32; Samira Wiley, 35; Seth Rogen, 40; Emma Thompson, 63.

Happy Birthday: Go the distance, leave nothing to chance and take responsibilities seriously. Be the one to make a difference and take care of matters that can change the way others view you. Step up your game, and use your skills and experience to emphasize how you want things to unfold and what you are willing to do to get what you want. Your numbers are 8, 14, 20, 27, 34, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend time with someone who has something interesting to say or offer. The outcome will help you see the purpose of joining forces and making compromises to reach a common goal. Share your thoughts and feelings, and it will open doors. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can change your mind, but do your best not to disrupt the lives of others. Have a backup plan in place, and everyone will be happy with the decisions you make. Keeping the peace is a crucial part of giving back and being successful. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay attention, listen carefully, and be compassionate and understanding, but don't buy into something based on excess or pretenses. Do your homework, and adjust any scenario you encounter to fit into the framework you need to excel. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Test your strength and ability to find solutions. Be proactive and helpful. The difference you can make will give others a nudge that starts a

movement. Trust and believe in yourself, and do your part. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Watch what others do, but don't make an unnecessary move that can affect your standing. Pay attention to detail, and put more time and effort into getting along and getting things done on time. Pick and choose your associates carefully. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put in the time, and finish what you start. People will judge you on how you live up to your promises and follow through with your plans. Actions speak louder than words. Make a point of letting others know how you feel. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your heart into your relationships with others. How you relate and deal with situations will determine how well you are received. Offer insight, suggestions and understanding, and you'll get the same in return. No fuss, no muss. ***

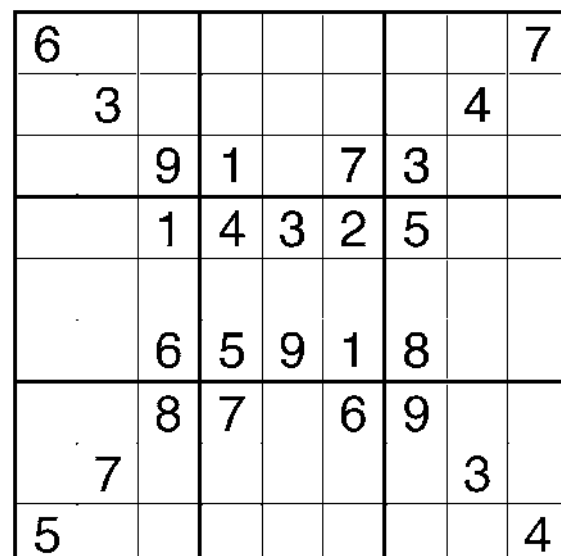
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take anything for granted. Do what you say, and don't depend on others. Independence will give you the edge and help you stand out. Be true to yourself, do things your way, and love who you are and what you achieve. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Toughen up and put your reputation on the line. Refuse to let anyone lead you astray or talk you into investing more time in them and less in yourself. Concentrate on what you want and the lifestyle that offers peace of mind. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



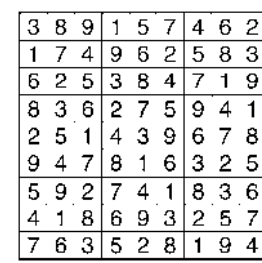
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change begins with you. Take the plunge, present your case and head in a direction that makes you happy. Replace what isn't working for you with a plan that offers personal, financial and physical happiness. Say no to emotional manipulation. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let emotions take you in a direction that disrupts your relationship with a friend, relative or peer. Be true to yourself, but don't broadcast what you plan to do unless you have what it takes to follow through. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep everyone guessing while you put everything in place. Having a direct route from where you are to where you want to be will make your life easier and win you the praise and support you desire. Romance and self-improvement are favored. ***

Birthday Baby: You are productive, devoted and resourceful. You are energetic and friendly.

☺ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺ Aim high; start new projects. ☺ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'SET IN THE WORD'

Solution: 8 letters



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Anisette, Beset, Close, Corset, Headset, Heavyset, Horsetail, Inset, Marmoset, Masset, Mindset, Misset, Mousetail, Noisette, Onset, Poussette, Reset, Rosette, Russet, Setback, Setine, Setoffs, Seton, Settee, Setters, Settling, Settling, Setup, Somerset, Summerset, Sunset, Trendsetter, Typeset, Upset, Verset, Videocassette

Yesterday's Answer: Disposable
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Young, Hunter lead Hawks to 132-103 play-in rout of Hornets

ATLANTA (AP)— For one night, at least, the Atlanta Hawks looked like the team that made a stunning run to the Eastern Conference final last summer.

Trae Young bounced back from a sluggish start to score 24 points and De'Aundre Hunter led a third-quarter surge Wednesday that carried the Hawks to a 132-103 rout of the Charlotte Hornets in a play-in game.

"We're definitely confident right now," Hunter said. "But we've got a lot more work to do. We're not satisfied yet."

The Hawks were a bit of a disappointment during the regular season, finishing ninth in the East after their surprising playoff success in 2021.

They've still got to win one more play-in game just to make the playoffs, heading to Cleveland to face the Cavaliers on Friday night. The winner claims the No. 8 seed in the East and will face the top-seeded Miami Heat in the opening round of the playoffs.

The season is over for the Hornets, who were overwhelmed in the 9-10 play-in game for the second year in a row and haven't made the playoffs since 2016.

Still, coach James Borrego called it another step forward for a rebuilding team.

"A lot of good things have happened for this franchise based on where we're at today compared to where we were two or three years ago," he said.

Miles Bridges was ejected in the fourth quarter and could be facing additional punishment from the league office after he appeared to strike a young fan with his mouthpiece.

All five Atlanta starters scored in double figures, as did Bogdan Bogdanovic off the bench. It was Hunter who came up big in the decisive third period, bursting out with 16 points after being held to 3 in the first half.

"I think I'm a big part of this team," Hunter said. "Me being aggressive, scoring and defending, helps this team a lot."

Hunter finished with 22 points, while Danilo Gallinari added 18 and Clint Capela 15. Kevin Huerter and Bogdanovic chipped in with 13 apiece.

The Hornets closed the regular season strong and felt like they had a good chance to win a couple of play-in games on the road. But those hopes came crashing down against their I-85 rival.

LaMelo Ball led Charlotte with 26 points on 7-of-25 shooting.

The Hawks led by 13 in the first half before settling for a 60-52 advantage at the break. Charlotte had a bit of momen-



Atlanta Hawks guards Trae Young and Bogdan Bogdanovic (13) celebrate after a Hawks basket during the second half of the team's NBA play-in basketball game against the Charlotte Hornets on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, in Atlanta.

tum in the closing minutes of the half, but it sure didn't carry over to the third.

The Hawks outscored the Hornets 42-24 during that 12-minute barrage, hitting 16 of 24 shots, and led 102-76 heading to the final period.

With the Hornets doubling at every opportunity, Young made only 1 of 9 shots in the opening quarter and 3 of 13 in the first half.

But his teammates found plenty of open looks and made the Hornets pay dearly.

"It's great for my team," said Young, who had 11 assists. "If you can make two guys guard you, it only opens up the floor for everybody else. I have to embrace it."

Charlotte should've known what kind of night it would be on their way to State Farm Arena.

The Hornets' chartered bus was blocked by a freight train that stopped on a crossing near the downtown sports complex. The bus had to turn around and take a different route to the arena, delaying Charlotte's arrival for pregame warmups.

It didn't get much better once the game tipped off.

Pelicans 113, Spurs 103

In New Orleans, CJ McCollum got New Orleans going early and Brandon Ingram took over late to send the Pelicans to Los Angeles for a chance at the final playoff spot.

McCollum scored 27 of his 32 points in the first half to carry the young Pelicans to a 113-103 win over the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday night. New Orleans will face the LA Clippers on Friday night for the eighth playoff seed.

"He was great," Pelicans coach Willie Green said of McCollum. "He set the tone early. He understood the moment, and it sort of calmed the rest of the guys down. We just got the

ball to him and he made play after play, score after score, and then the rest of the guys that just started to feed off CJ."

Playing in his 57th playoff game, McCollum displayed a calming presence to his younger teammates. Rookies Herb Jones, José Alvarado and Trey Murphy played large chunks of the fourth quarter.

"I was just trying to be locked in and aggressive early," McCollum said. "The playoffs is a lot of antics, a lot of momentum plays, a lot of back and forth. You've got to be stable and mentally locked in to withstand a certain level of (chaos). ... There's going to be a lot of winning in our future."

McCollum wasn't alone. Ingram shook foul trouble to add 27 points and center Jonas Valanciunas added 22 points and 14 rebounds as the Pelicans' stars delivered under pressure of New Orleans' first postseason game since 2018.

"The three best players for New Orleans all played great, and if that happens, you're going to lose," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said of his team's inability to contain McCollum, Ingram and Valanciunas. "We stayed in it and got back in it, but then we made the same mistakes as we did in the first three quarters — non physical defense."

"We're just playing for each other," Valanciunas said of combining for 81 points with McCollum and Ingram. "When things struggle, we need somebody to slow the game down, which (CJ) does. Next step is on Friday."

Popovich said his young team, which averages 25 years in age, learned a lesson the hard way.

"It's the playoffs, and you've got to be into people," Popovich said. "The grunt is important. Ingram scored two in a row right in the middle of the lane with no one even touch-

ing him. It's a great lesson for our guys."

The Pelicans, who finished ninth in the West after starting the season 3-16, will play at the Clippers with the winner facing the top-seeded Phoenix Suns in the first round. New Orleans beat Los Angeles in three of four meetings this season.

The Pelicans seemed headed to a rout, leading 96-75, with 10:39 left, but the 10th-seeded Spurs used a 16-1 run over the next 5:25 to cut it to 97-91. The Pelicans missed seven consecutive shots during the run.

Ingram hit a pair of soft jumpers in the lane and Valanciunas added a short jumper to put New Orleans back on top, 103-91.

Devin Vassell led San Antonio with 23 points. Dejounte Murray had 16 points, but he

went just 5 of 19 from the floor while being shadowed by Pelicans rookie defensive stopper Herb Jones.

"You have to take the good and bad and learn from it," Murray said. "We had guys not shoot well, starting with myself. They were physical. I ain't making no excuses."

After Ingram went to the bench with three fouls 5:17 before halftime, McCollum carried the Pelicans offensively. In a 14-4 run over the final 3:36 of the half, McCollum made two 3-pointers and pierced the San Antonio defense for two finger-roll layups on strong drives into the lane as New Orleans built a 61-50 lead.

McCollum made 10 of his first 12 shots, including 2 of 3 from long range, despite drawing consistent double teams.

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Kershaw pulled after 7 with perfect game; Dodgers top Twins



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Clayton Kershaw was in prime form — call it perfect — in his season debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers, leaving no concern about his health after facing no resistance from the Minnesota Twins.

When the time came for manager Dave Roberts to relieve him, Kershaw didn't put up a fight, either.

Kershaw took a perfect game through seven innings for the Dodgers until he was pulled after 80 pitches, dominating the Twins with 13 strikeouts in 21 batters during a 7-0 victory on Wednesday.

"Those are selfish goals. We're trying to win. That's really all we're here for," Kershaw said.

Roberts consulted with Kershaw after the sixth, and the three-time NL Cy Young Award winner told him his preference: one more inning with an 85-pitch limit.

"I would have loved to have stayed, but bigger things, man, bigger things," Kershaw said.

So on a the gray, windy, 38-degree afternoon at Target Field, Alex Vesia entered for the eighth to boos from the blue-clad Dodgers fans in the crowd of 17,101.

Vesia gave up Minnesota's first and only hit, a one-out single by Gary Sánchez.

Cody Bellinger, Gavin Lux and Austin Barnes hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth against reliever Dereck Rodriguez, who made his Twins debut.

Chris Paddack had a rough first start with the Twins, too, less than a week after he was acquired in a trade with the Padres. He lasted four innings, with six hits and three runs allowed.

Justin Turner hit a two-run single in the first, Trea Turner had a sacrifice fly in the second and Max Muncy went deep in the ninth for the Dodgers, who won a 7-2 game the night before that was paused for 1 1/2 hours due to rain and ended after midnight.

Kershaw was plenty refreshed.

Re-signed with the Dodgers for \$17 million this year after missing more than two months in 2021 with inflammation in his left forearm, Kershaw was slotted fifth in the rotation out of the gate. That unusual assignment was to give his arm more time to build up strength in light of the limited spring training schedule.

"Blame it on the lockout. Blame it on me not picking up a baseball until January," said Kershaw, who threw a no-hitter against Colorado on June 18, 2014. "My slider was horrible the last two in-



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Wednesday, April 13, 2022, in Minneapolis.

nings. It didn't have the bite. It was time."

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 4

In New York, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. shook off a bloody gash on his right ring finger to hit three home runs, including two off Yankees ace Gerrit Cole, and Toronto beat New York.

George Springer hit a tie-breaking single in the seventh, and Toronto held off the Yankees despite homers from Anthony Rizzo, Aaron Judge and Gleyber Torres — and a fly in the eighth by pinch-hitter Giancarlo Stanton that was caught on the warning track.

Guerrero homered off Cole in the first inning, had his hand accidentally spiked on a play at first base in the second, then hammered a two-run shot against Cole in the third. He doubled in the sixth and launched a 443-foot leadoff homer in the eighth.

Adam Cimber (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Jordan Romano pitched the ninth for his fourth save of the season.

Cole struck out six in 5 2/3 innings, giving up three runs on Guerrero's homers. Three of the four hits against him were by Guerrero. Chad Green (0-1) took the loss.

Mets 9, Phillies 6

In Philadelphia, Pete Alonso drove in five runs with a homer and two doubles, Max Scherzer settled in after working out of an early jam and New York beat Philadelphia.

Alonso drilled a three-run homer and Brandon Nimmo hit a solo shot in support of Scherzer (2-0), who allowed one run and five hits with seven strikeouts in five innings. All nine batters who started the game for New York reached base at least once.

Aaron Nola (1-1) allowed three earned runs on three hits in 3 1/3 innings. Nick Castellanos hit an RBI double and reigning NL MVP Bryce Harper launched his first home run of the season.

Nationals 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Josiah Gray allowed one hit in five scoreless innings, and Washington beat Max Fried and Atlanta, taking two of three games in the series and dropping the World Series champions to 3-4 on their opening homestand.

Gray (1-1) struck out five, walked three and also hit a batter. Tanner Rainey earned his second save.

Atlanta's Austin Riley had two hits, including a homer off Kyle Finnegan in the sixth.

Fried (0-2) allowed three runs — two earned — and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings. He was struck on the right leg by a grounder in the sixth, gave up singles to the next two batters and was replaced by Collin McHugh.

Pirates 6, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, Ben Gamel hit a three-run homer in the first inning, Ke'Bryan Hayes went 4 for 4 a day after getting a \$70 million, eight-year contract and Pittsburgh beat Chicago.

Kevin Newman hit a two-run triple in the third for the Pirates, who went 3 for 7 with runners in scoring position, a day after going 0 for 10.

Seiya Suzuki was 1 for 3 with an RBI single in the fourth for the Cubs. Willson Contreras hit a 453-foot homer for Chicago.

Kyle Hendricks (0-1) allowed six runs, seven and four walks hits in 3 2/3 innings. Dillon Peters (1-0) earned the

win and Wil Crowe picked up his first professional save.

Guardians 7, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, José Ramírez homered, doubled and drove in three runs, Owen Miller hit two home runs and Cleveland beat Cincinnati for its fourth straight win.

Rookie Steven Kwan went 0 for 4, but drew a bases-loaded walk in the second inning that put Cleveland ahead to stay as it completed a two-game sweep. Oscar Mercado also homered for the Guardians and Myles Straw matched a career high with four hits.

Nick Lodolo (0-1) made his major league debut and allowed seven hits and five runs with three walks and four strikeouts in four innings.

Cleveland starter Triston McKenzie pitched three-hit ball for four shutout innings. He struck out six and walked none. Eli Morgan (1-0) relieved and gave up one run and one hit in three innings.

Red Sox 9, Tigers 7

In Detroit, Jackie Bradley, Kiké Hernández and Rafael Devers hit consecutive RBI doubles in the fourth inning to chase former teammate Eduardo Rodríguez, and Boston held on against Detroit.

Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) gave up solo homers to Jonathan Schoop and Akil Baddoo and allowed two runs, four hits and a walk over five innings. Hansel Robles earned the save.

Rodríguez (0-1) allowed up seven runs — two earned — five hits and three walks over 3 2/3 innings in his second start with the Tigers. Detroit rookie Spencer Torkelson hit his first major league homer, a two-run shot.

Diamondbacks 3, Astros 2, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Ketel Marte had the game-ending sacrifice fly in the 10th inning after Seth Beer tied it with a single as Arizona rallied to beat Houston and snapped a four-game skid despite leaving 14 runners on base.

The game was full of missed opportunities for both teams — tied at 1-all through nine innings — until each scratched across runs in the 10th.

The Diamondbacks got the better of the exchange, falling behind in the top of the 10th before scoring two runs off Houston closer Ryan Pressly (0-1).

Arizona starter Merrill Kelly threw 5 1/3 scoreless innings, giving up three hits, two walks and striking out six. Oliver Perez (1-1) got the last out of the 10th.

Houston starter Framber Valdez struggled, needing 76 pitches to get through three innings. He gave up one run despite surrendering two hits and five walks.

Giants 2, Padres 1

In San Francisco, Logan Webb pitched four-hit ball over eight innings and Luke Williams doubled home the only runs he needed as San Francisco edged San Diego.

Webb (1-0) allowed one run and retired 22 of the final 24 hitters he faced, striking out seven and walking none. Camilo Doval picked up his first save.

The Padres' Jake Cronenworth tripled in the first against Webb and drove in Manny Machado, who had doubled.

San Diego lefty Sean Manaea (1-1) was also stingy, holding San Francisco to two runs over six innings of four-hit ball.

White Sox 6, Mariners 4

In Chicago, Tim Anderson homered and drove in three runs in the rain, and banged-up Chicago beat Robbie Ray and Seattle.

Eloy Jiménez and Luis Robert also connected, helping Chicago to its fourth straight win since falling at Detroit on opening day. Dallas Keuchel (1-0) pitched five innings of three-run ball in his first start of the year. Liam Hendriks earned the save.

The White Sox lost two players in their second home game. Jiménez departed in the fifth with a left ankle contusion, and second baseman Josh Harrison left after seven innings because of lower back stiffness.

Ray (1-1) was charged with six runs and 10 hits in 6 1/3 innings in his first loss with his new team. Ty France homered and drove in two runs for the Mariners, who lost their fourth straight game.

Athletics 4, Rays 2

St. Petersburg, Fla., Frankie Montas pitched neatly into the seventh inning, Sean Murphy hit a three-run homer and Oakland beat Tampa Bay.

Montas (1-1) allowed two runs and five hits over 6 1/3 innings, striking out six, as the A's defeated Tampa Bay for the second time in three days. Oakland's third reliever, Lou Trivino, earned his first save.

Tampa Bay got a fourth-inning solo homer from Ji-Man Choi.

Shane Bieber (0-1) gave up three runs, two hits and three walks, and struck out eight in 4 2/3 innings.

Brewers 4, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Kolten Wong tripled in the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning, and Milwaukee squeezed past Baltimore after blowing a two-run lead in the eighth.

The Brewers received a sparkling performance from Corbin Burnes, who flashed the form that earned him last year's NL Cy Young Award. But he failed to get the win despite throwing seven shutout innings, giving up three hits, striking out eight and walking one. Brad Boxberger (1-0) earned the win and Josh Hader picked up his third save.

Rowdy Tellez had two hits and two RBIs, and Mike Brosseau drove in another run for Milwaukee.

Ryan Mountcastle and Trey Mancini had RBIs for the Orioles. Baltimore starter John Means was pulled after the fourth inning with left forearm tightness, according to the team. He gave up four hits and retired the last seven batters he faced. Jorge López (0-1) took the loss.

A total of 303 finish Saipan Marathon 2022



A total of 303 runners crossed the finish line of the Saipan Marathon 2022 last Saturday, April 9, successfully navigating their respective half-marathon, 10K, and 5K courses.

The original 327 registrants included 304 from The Marianas, 15 from U.S.A., four from Guam, and two from South Korea, plus two more. The breakdown by race are 86 individuals for the half-marathon, 122 for the 10K, and 119 for the 5K. It was an overwhelming young roster, with 13-17 being the largest age category.

The annual race is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, in partnership this year with Northern Marianas Athletics.

“Saipan Marathon 2022 was a great success, and we congratulate all the winners and thank all our sponsors and supporters, especially Northern Marianas Athletics,” said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “The local



The 10K course of Saipan Marathon 2022 commences on April 9, 2022, in The Marianas.

runners absolutely enjoyed the challenge, and it was especially exciting to see so many young people participate. As tourism continues to recover from COVID, we look forward to an even larger crowd next year.”

Based on official results released by NMA, topping the half-marathon men’s division was Ryan Matienzo of Guam in 1:19:01, while the women’s division was led by Lily Muldoon of in 1:35:15. In the 10K, perennial placer

Keith Longuski of Northern Marianas placed first in 40:06, while Kaithlyn Chavez of Northern Marianas led the women’s division in 46:54. In the 5K, the men’s division was led by Cody Shimizu of Northern Marianas in 18:41, while Noriko Jim of Northern Marianas finished in 21:06 to lead the women’s division. Over \$ 6,500 in cash prizes were awarded. Age division medals were also awarded.

A technical correction was made to initial timing results

to correct place finishes.

Saipan Marathon returned this year after a hiatus in 2021 due to the pandemic. The race follows some of Saipan’s most scenic roadways, starting and ending at Micro Beach and American Memorial Park and providing stunning views of the azure blue lagoon along the Beach Road. All participants received a finisher’s T-shirt, a certificate of completion via email, and entry to the awards banquet at Aqua Resort Club.

The event was sponsored by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. In-kind contributors are Century Hotel, Serenity Hotel, Aqua Resort Club Saipan and Kinpachi Restaurant. Aid stations were provided by Saipan World Resort, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Triathlon Association of the CNMI, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Supporters are Dept. of Public Safety, Dept.

of Public Works, American Memorial Park, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Div. of Parks & Recreation, Marianas Health Services and Run Saipan.

The race was a World Athletics™-AIMS Certified Course, as World Athletics™ has agreed to extend

the measurement certificates for another 12 months for the Saipan Half Marathon and 10K.

For more information about upcoming MVA signature events, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or on [facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas](https://www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas). (PR)

BLUE

From Page 24

floor clean of IT&E, 111-54. It was a bitter-sweet win for the high-flying forward as Peredo actually works for the telecommunications company. Peredo scored 27 points for Blue Haus, which won for the eighth time in 10 tries, while the loss was the sixth in nine outings for IT&E.

First Game

Eagle Construction 79 – Singca 18, Ocampo 13, J. Itaas 9, Rabago 7, Umali 7, Surima 6, Garcia 6, Jacob 4, Ramos 3, Sublemente 3, Sampang 2.

Magalahi Eagles 64 – Brillo 24, Odicka 16, Cortez 15, Martinez 8, Panes 5, Emerson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-16, 30-26, 54-40, 79-64.

Second Game

Blue Haus 109 – Diaz 24, Berline 18, Santos 14, Guiab 12, Elchico 11, Culala 9, Esdrelon 7, Alano 2, Peredo 2.

MDC 103 – Sedillo 30, Catala 27, Tolentino 26, Quemado 8, Dela Torre 7, Mano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-27, 48-49, 79-64, 109-103.

Third Game

Blue Haus 111 – Peredo 27, Alain 18, Bernardo 17, Santos 15, Berline 11, Lauron 6, Devero 6, Peltos 4, Alolgot 4, Esdreron 3,

IT&E 54 – Aquino 14, Otto 14, Reign 4, Billy 4.

Scoring by quarters: 32-14, 63-21, 95-37, 111-54.

17

From Page 24

Swim Series.

Soccer’s Jose Maratita is also nominated for the yearly award after winning the monthly honor in April 2021. He was the best player of his school’s team that won the championship of the CNMI Public School System Elementary Interscholastic Soccer League that month.

May’s winner Sir-Lashu Dela Cruz represents the sport of basketball in the Male Student Athlete of the Year race. He got the nod for the monthly award after leading Tinian’s Team Natural to the championship of the Division of Youth Services/Typhoon Sports 3v3 Basketball Tournament.

Athletics’ Cristobal Dela Cruz was male student athlete of the month last June after surprising everyone with a 12.65 run in the 100m sprint of the Northern Marianas Athletics’ Track & Field Open Meet.

Another soccer player, Jazzroy Villagomez, was the winner in October after emerging as the best player of third place Garapan Elementary School in the Summer season of the PSS Elementary Interscholastic Soccer League. He averaged almost 5 goals per game, including 10 goals in the quarterfinals match.

Juhn Tenorio is also nominated for the 2021 Male Student Athlete of the Year award after donning the CNMI’s colors in the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Emirates last December. The MHS student swam his personal best time in the 50m freestyle race finishing at 23.97 seconds. He achieved another personal best time in the 100m backstroke event with a time of 58.85 seconds.

Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez leads the Female Student Athlete nominees after topping the 6th Saipan Aquathlon in January 2021. The multi-sport athlete outpaced 14 female adults and placed sixth over-

all among 27 participants by clocking in at 1:07:53.

Katrina Costales won the March Female Student Athlete award in March after leading the Golden Boot Award race in Division A of the Dove Women’s Soccer League with 7 goals while suiting up for Shirley’s Football Club. She also scored 2 goals for the NMI Women’s Team that played in Division B of the NMIFA Men’s League that month.

The April winner is also from the sport of soccer with Jerlyn Castillo getting the award after being one of the leading scorers in Division A of the NMIFA Dove Women’s Soccer League. She scored 9 goals in seven matches at the end of April, averaging at least a goal per match played.

Athletics’ Casey C. Cruz also made the shortlist for the 2021 Female Student Athlete of the Year award after taking home the monthly award last May. She distinguished herself by winning all three sprints—100m at 13.50 seconds, 200m at 28.90 seconds, and 400m at

1:09.95 minutes—in the PSS/McDonald’s All Schools Athletics Championships.

Basketball has another nominee for the yearly student athlete honor after Fiona Bucalig won the June award. The Lady Rollers team captain showed outstanding leadership in the Summer Heat 3v3 Basketball Tournament held at the Tinian Gymnasium and the Marianas International Basketball League 3v3 Season 2 Tournament held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last June.

Maria Batallones of swimming is also going to the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet after winning the monthly award last July. This, after she topped the 1,000m races of the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series. She swam the first series in 14:47:00 then bettered herself in the second with a time of 11:09:87.

August winner Tiana Cabrera won two races in August that justified her being chosen as female athlete of the month.

She has had setbacks, like every athlete, but uses these to improve her running. Aside from that, the Saipan International School student trains with NMA, Run Saipan, and with SIS’ track team.

For September, towering Azriel Fatialofa won the monthly prize after leading Grace Christian Academy to an unblemished 7-0 record in the regular season of the IT&E Girls Middle School Interscholastic Basketball League. She is also part of the NMI National Basketball Program, attending select players’ training sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Beatrice Gross of soccer won the October monthly award after being named MVP in the Summer Season of the PSS Elementary Interscholastic Soccer League. She is a multi-sport student-athlete of Saipan International School.

Bodybuilding’s lone entry for the yearly award is Filomenaleonisa Iakopo after she won first place in the

women’s figure category of the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding & Fitness Championship last November. Iakopo’s posing, muscularity and condition, and stage presence earned her the top spot in her debut competition, where she was also the youngest competitor.

Shoko Litulumar joins her 15th FINA World Swimming Championships teammate Tenorio as among the nominees for the 2021 Student Athlete of the Year award. Like Tenorio, she got the nod for representing the CNMI in the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships held at the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi where she broke her personal best in the 50m breaststroke (39.91) despite not having the opportunity to swim in an official pool and meet for more than two years.

The nominees for the Male Athlete of the Year and the Female Athlete of the Year awards will be reported in next week’s issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

BREAK

From Page 24

sustainable future,” she said.

During the awards, Muldoon and second-place overall Akiko Miller also crossed their arms and the latter explained the gesture to *Saipan Tribune*.

“As women athletes of the CNMI we cross our arms as a statement to ‘Break the Bias,’ in solidarity with women around the world. We strike the #BreakTheBias pose to call out bias, smash

stereotypes, expose inequality, and reject discrimination,” she said.

Muldoon also thanked NMA for staging the 2nd Annual NMI Women’s 10K Run and for giving women an avenue to advocate gender equality.

“Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Thank you race organizers and volunteers to give us this platform to bring awareness and take action to level the playing field.”

Muldoon and Miller were the top finishers of the run after negotiating the route from the Hyatt Regency Saipan to just after the Japanese Tank Memorial along Quartermaster Road and back in 43:59 and 45:03, respectively. Dixie Mendenhall, who completing the Top 3 in 48:33, wasn’t present to pick up her medal.

In the age group divisions, one of those who did receive her medal was Juanita Fajardo, who topped the 60-64 category in 1:28:02. Lydia

Tan was the runaway winner in the 55-59 division after crossing the finish line in 58:56. She was followed by Ramona Manglona and Marie Sablan with times of 1:16:04 and 1:17:00, respectively.

For the 45-49 age group, Rosemarie Chisato ruled the henhouse after clocking in at 54:16. Ann Bang came next in 57:11 with Julie Hall completing the Top 3 in 1:01:04.

Audrey Christley was the fleetest afoot in the 40-44 category after tearing the

tape in 49:23. Ayano Braxton was second in 51:37 with *Saipan Tribune* contributing writer Lindsay Nash third in 58:22.

In the 35-39 division, Kathy Ruszala was without peer after finishing in 58:23. Laarni Zapanta was second in 1:18:00 with Marjorie Gancias third in 1:20:01.

Near the end of the short and simple awards ceremony, NMA secretary general Robin Sapong congratulated the winners and everyone who took part in last month’s

2nd Annual NMI Women’s 10K Run. He also shared good news about the national athletics federation.

“Liamwar Rangamar is the new vice president of NMA. With her around being around women’s sports will be stronger than ever. I also promise there will be a banquet next year. There was just no venue available this year and that’s the reason we couldn’t proceed but there’s going to be a banquet in 2023 so please mark your calendars and wait our notifi-



Young, Hunter lead
Hawks to 132-103
play-in rout of
Hornets
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Saipan Tribune Sports

A total of 303 finish
Saipan Marathon
2022

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

17 vie for NMSA Student Athlete of the Year

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The future of CNMI sports will be served this coming Tuesday when the Male Student Athlete of the Year and the Female Student Athlete will be announced in the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

A total of 17 student athletes—11 girls and six boys—have been nominated for the yearly honor. Northern Marianas Sports Association earlier said the winners of the Male Student and Female Student Athletes of the Year comes from the monthly awardees list.

Isaiah Aleksenko is the only double winner of the student



Cruz



Aleksenko



Bataliones



Bucalig



C. Dela Cruz



Cabrera



Chavez



Costales



Fatialofa



Gross



Iakopo



Litulumar

athlete plum as the Marianas High School student won in January and July last year. He won in January for finishing second in the 6th Saipan Aquathlon, while he took the plum in July for topping the first and second installments of the 1,500m event of the Triple Crown Open Water

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Maratita



S. Dela Cruz



Tenorio



Villagomez



Castillo

Blue Haus still unscathed in masters caging

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Haus overcame a spirited stand by Marianas Dental Center to remain perfect in the masters division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

The now 7-0 team was engaged in a nip-and-tuck affair early on with MDC taking the first two quarters, 27-26

and 49-48. Spitfire Tony Diaz caught fire in the third quarter to give Blue Haus a comfortable 79-64 spread entering the fourth and final quarter.

In the playoff period, MDC rallied behind the 10 points and 9 points of Fradel Sedillo and Gerry aTolentino, respectively. However, the duo's effort wasn't enough as Diaz also continued to spew fire and 6'3" center Bruce Berline dominated inside as Blue Haus was able

to escape by the skin of their teeth, 109-103.

Diaz top-scored for Blue Haus with 24 points, while Berline and John Santos punched in 18 and 14 points, respectively. MDC was paced by the 30 markers of Sedillo.

The now 4-5 team also got 27 markers from Rodney Catalla and 26 markers from Tolentino. Earlier, Eagle Construction leveled its win-loss card at 5-5 and solidified its No. 3 spot

in the playoffs with a 79-64 drubbing of namesake Magalahi Eagles. Jun Singca fast-broke his way for a team-high 18 points, while veteran sharpshooter Alex Ocampo chipped in 13. Magalahi Eagles, which remained winless in seven games, was led by the 24 points of Walter Brillo.

In the lone open division game Saturday, Ehroll Peredo waxed hot all game long as Blue Haus wiped the

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Blue Haus' Elmer Esdreton drives baseline against Marianas Dental Center in their masters division matchup in the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

'Break the Bias' touted during Women's 10K Run awardings



Dr. Lily Muldoon, right, and Akiko Miller gesture the "Break the Bias" pose after receiving their medals and prizes during the awards ceremony of the 2nd Annual NMI Women's 10K Run last April 7 beside the Oleai track and field.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Marianas Athletics gave out medals to the winners of the 2nd Annual NMI Women's 10K Run last April 7 beside the Oleai track and field with top runner Dr. Lily Muldoon continuing to advocate for gender equality.

The 37-year-old Department of Public Health director and Commonwealth Health Center Emergency Depart-

ment physician said the women's 10K run was made more special because it was held during Women's Month in the Marianas and International Women's Day 2022.

"The NMI Women's 10K was held during International Women's Month. The United Nations theme this year is 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow,' which aims to recognize women who are working to build a more

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DAYS LEFT UNTIL
NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022
JUNE 17-25, 2022